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INSIDE TODAY

WORLD NEWS

PROTEST SQUASHED



Iranians hold photos taken during clashes in Iran following the presidential election during a demonstration near the Iranian embassy in Paris, Monday June 22, 2009 to protest the outcome of the presidential election in Iran.

See World News Page 9

SPORTS NEWS

SHARAPOVA UPSET



Maria Sharapova of Russia reacts while playing Gisela Dulko of Argentina during their second round singles match at Wimbledon, Wednesday, June 24, 2009.

See Sports Today Page 10

www.aruba.com holds 1st Video Contest



Competition organizers announce to the local press the initiation of the 1st Video Contest for www.aruba.com that will start on July 1st, 2009.

PASEO HERENCIA – The Aruba Tourism Authority announce its newest local promotion this week in Mr. Jazz. It is a video contest to enrich Aruba's official website www.aruba.com. The objectives of the competition is to Explore, and capture not commonly advertised unique aspects of the island, such as Fun, Culture- and Arts-oriented, and Nature aspects, which are seen through the eyes and felt through the hearts of the Arubans

themselves. In particular, scenes that are uniquely considered “treasures of Aruba”, and allowing the local community to experience their island from a different viewpoint. This competition is opened to the general public of all ages, thus anyone owning a (digital) video camera.

Categories: Youth: 10 – 17 years old, Adult: 18+ years old.

Continued on Next Page

Having a whale of a time at Moby Dick's Seafood Restaurant

“Go World Publishing & Productions” dine at Paseo Herencia



PALM BEACH – Public Relations Executive Sharmaine Tromp of the Paseo Herencia mall joined the Denver, Colorado based publishing crew currently on the island.

They are a production company called “Go World Publishing & Productions” and are busy on the island to shoot for ATA (Aruba Tourism Authority) and to help create an HD video footage library of Paseo Herencia.

The group enjoyed nautical setting and all of the treasures of the sea delicately prepared by Moby Dick's chef and his crew. □

~ Photo by Julia Renfro ~

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www.aruba.com holds 1st Video Contest



Continued from Front Page

The contest begins July 1st and ends August 31st 2009 (Entry Period). All entries received during the competition will become property of the Aruba Tourism Authority and shall reserve the rights of the material. Information on registration and prizes are included in the Official Rules of the competition. By submitting an entry, each entrant agrees to the Official Rules and warrants that his/her entry complies with all requirements specified in the Official Rules. For more information, go to www.aruba.com/tesoronan

Video Themes: Fun: Sports, Activities, Nightlife. Arts & Culture: Dance, Music, Paint, Cultural Events, People, Culinary. Nature: Landscape, Flora & Fauna.

How to Enter: Entrants may submit in total no more than one (1) entry per theme. Each entry must comply with the following entry requirements: Download and complete the entry form. Submit this entry form, Afl.10 (incl. workshop) and your digital video(s) on a DVD at ATA office. Entry form must be complete for entry to be valid.

The entrant must be the producer of the video(s) and all of its content such as audio, video, and images. By entering the contest, entrant represents, acknowledges and warrants that the submitted video(s) are original works created by the entrant and that no other party has any right, title, claim or interest in the video(s). In the event that the video(s) features audio, images, and/or performances

of third party, the entrant must submit a written document (waiver, available on www.aruba.com) in which the third party grants the entrant all rights over his/her audio, images, and/or performance and renounces to any payment or reimbursement of any kind from the Aruba Tourism Authority. In the case of a minor, the subject's parent or guardian model release must be provided upon request.

Prizes include: Apple Macintosh "Mac Book Pro" and 1st 2nd 3rd Prizes per Theme: Handy cams, iPods, Hotel Stays, Sailing Trips & more.

A panel of Judges ranging from Professional filmmakers to Artists in our community will evaluate the entries based on the following criteria: Clear message about the main topic "Treasures of Aruba"; Overall impact; Originality; and Creativity. □

~ Photos by Julia Renfro



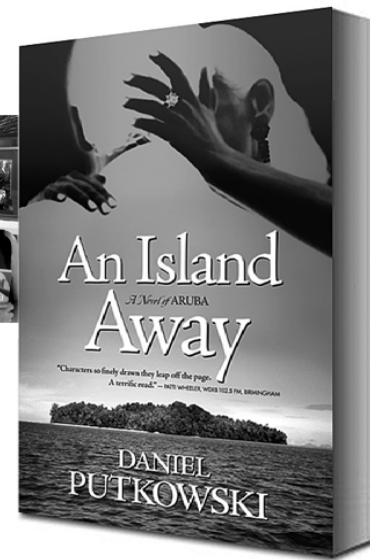
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Island Life - Marriott Ocean Club
 Mistral - La Cabana
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 Red Sail Sports - Port of Call
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Acoustic Soul with new songs at Chaos café



ORANJESTAD -- Jairo Boekhoudt, Armin Solognier, Jose Croeze, Angelo Kock and Jeremy Bonarriba, better known as ACOUSTIC SOUL, gave two great performances in a row at Café Chaos just recently, and due to popular demand, are planning an encore show with all new songs, Saturday, June 27th, after 11:30 p.m.



The band that rocked the house with Acoustic Soul Gone Metal, on Queen's Birthday at the end of April, and then again gave a stellar performance mid-May, is raising the roof this time, just the way his fans like it. You are invited to experience the music this weekend at Chaos Café. □

Tango staffer shows excellence

Belkis chosen as EOM of Aruba Wine & Dine

PALM BEACH – At employee of the month of the Arawak Garden on Aruba Wine and Dine was Wednesday, June 24th, the chosen. Belkis Dominguez



was named employee of the for the back of the house for not just Tango Restaurant but out of the entire group of restaurants in the Aruba Wine & Dine group. Belkis is responsible for the cold side from the kitchen of Tango Restaurant. She is a friendly colleague and is always smiling during work. She has been working since 2005 at Tango and

showed during the last years that she is very important for the team. She has a great feeling of responsibility and is always willing to help. The last period she showed us that she can be in charge on the hot side as well. "We think that Belkis could be a good chef in the future. That is why Belkis is our employee of the month!" □

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This offer is valid until June 20th, 2009.

Telecaribe T.V. of Rio Hacha Colombia visits Aruba



ORANJESTAD – Recently, a film crew from Telecaribe TV visited Aruba at the invitation of the Aruba Tourism Authority. Di Rio Hacha Colombia of channel 142 filmed on the island under the direction of Mr. Jesus Rey who had a great impression of Aruba and all the island has to offer for tourist to enjoy.

Besides admiring Aruba's extensive culinary array of 5 Star restaurants, Mr. Rey also made sure that the crew enjoyed "criollo" or typical foods of Aruba.

They enjoyed the fabulous flavors and local dishes of Aruba at the Papiamento Restaurant, Gasparito Restaurant and also Nos Cunucu Restaurant.

The group, who enjoyed the



wonderful accommodations of the Manchebo Beach Resort and Spa, also had the opportunity to enjoy a day on De Palm Island and discover the unique experience of SNUBA.

The crew of Telecaribe TV commented that they found all of the places they

visited on Aruba enjoyable and exceptionally clean with the friendliest most hospitable staff ever. A special appreciation goes to PR Representative Ricardo Croes of the Aruba Tourism Authority for being their guide during their stay and the island. □

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Inauguration of new member at Kiwanis Club of Aruba



ORANJESTAD - On Wednesday, 17th of June, the Kiwanis Club of Aruba welcomed a new member to the Kiwanis family: Mrs Julisa Arends-Hoevertsz. Julisa is married to Joswin Arends and together they have 3 beautiful kids, Chelsy Arilee (12), Alyza Leanne (6) and a baby boy Antoine Alexander (1). Currently, she is working as Management Assistant at Stork Wescar Aruba N.V. where she is in charge of HRM for staff personnel, IT, all office and legal matters and also assists management with all possible issues, and sometimes also the impossible issues! "It's a very demanding but greatly satisfying job" Julisa explains. Julisa is a hardworking girl with a great passion to help those in need. She is open minded and a very driven person. She loves to laugh and have fun. She joined Kiwanis Club Aruba because she is well aware of the fact that there are some in the Aruban community that need that extra hand to come across and she is convinced that through Kiwanis she can make the difference for those in need. "Every child deserves a smile on his or her pretty face and I will sure do my utmost best to make that happen". "There is a lot of work to do in the community and with God's guidance I am ready and willing to do that work together with my fellow K's" says Julisa. All Kiwanis Members extend a warm welcome to the Kiwanis Club of Aruba! For more info, please visit our website www.kiwanisaruba.org



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This vibrant unforgettable sail provides a casual Mexican Buffet Dinner and a complimentary bar featuring Coronita beer, Margaritas, and Tequilas. Watch

the sun set, the colors of the sky change and the island slowly light up. This is the perfect sail to celebrate the end of a Caribbean day and the start of a fun filled Caribbean night.

To make reservations call 586-1603 or go to www.redsailaruba.com. Be sure to visit one of Red Sail Sports' stores for the latest in swimwear, beach essentials, T-shirts and souvenirs.



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Call: 586-2211 or ask your concierge.

At the Paseo Herencia Mall across from the Holiday Inn



Nobushi now offers takeout and delivery starting at 11 am. Call: 594-7395 or 592-7711

Don't miss the live Flamenco show on Fridays

Head downtown to Casa Tua Barcelona for Lunch & Dinner

ORANJESTAD - The downtown atmosphere is cool and relaxed with its in-and outside seating. The highlight at Casa Tua Barcelona is new lunch specials every weekday from Monday till Friday! A \$9.95 lunch special; Beef tenderloin with a red wine sauce or choose the 3-course



special for \$19.95. All nights we serve Cold and Hot tapas as appetizers or the delicious Iberian Ham Pata Negra which we import directly from Andalucia. As your main course you should choose our Paella, traditionally prepared on the spot by our chef! Combine this Spanish dish with our

home-made sangria to complete your dinner.

The staff at this popular eatery has set the standard on the island for the term "great service" not only with your dinning pleasure, but recognized as 'the' professionals in assisting guests with the perfect cocktail, paired wine or other beverages.

Of course we saved the best for



last as no one does an ending better than Casa Tua with their dreamy Tiramisu. If you're into something different we suggest tasting the Espresso Martini Cocktail as dessert, you won't be disappointed.

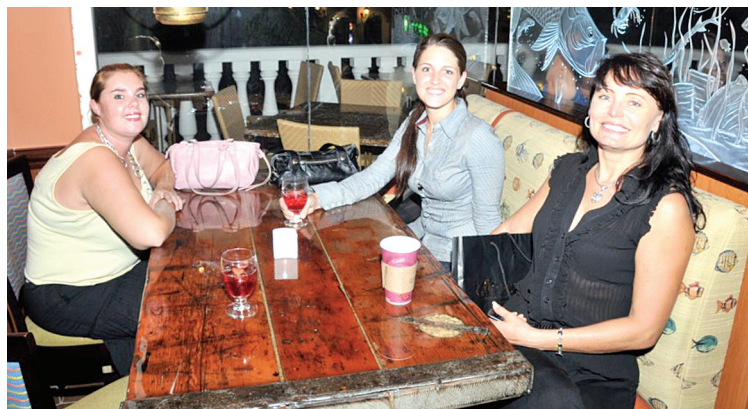
The best part about such a good ending is that it guarantees you'll be back for more...

Casa Tua Barcelona
Downtown open from 11.30am to 10.30pm, Sunday from 5pm to 11pm tel. 588 5695
Casa Tua Palm Beach open from 5pm to 11pm, tel 586 8470



Live music on Saturday

Aruba's concierges enjoy a "Taste of Paseo"



PALM BEACH – A group of Aruba's most important local ambassadors were invited to the Paseo Herencia Mall to enjoy a wine and dine celebration in their honor. Approximately 60 concierges and guest services reps of all the hotels enjoyed a wonderful evening at Paseo Herencia; "Taste of Paseo".

The evening consisted of menu sampling at the different participating restaurants and informing them what stores, restaurants and services have to offer to their guests. Everyone received a bag with information of the mall participants and samples of their products.

Marketing and Events



Manager Sharmaine Tromp, together with members of the Paseo Herencia Executive Team Jessy Dirks and Vanessa Lopez accompanied the group around to the participating tenants. The concierges enjoyed the hospitality of restaurants

Iguana Cantina, Scala, Taste of Belgium, Moka's Perfect Blend and Moby Dick's. Participants won prizes like dinners for two at TGI Fridays, Nobushi, and Moby Dick's. A Perfume and Cosmetics basket from Maggy's was won by Marianne Middelburg. And



Spectacular seafood special at Driftwood

From the pier to your plate at authentic Aruban seafood restaurant

ORANJESTAD - It's happening downtown. Established Driftwood Restaurant launches a series of spectacular and delicious seafood specials, available now.

Driftwood is specialized in fresh seafood from the Caribbean Sea and has become the favorite spot for Aruban-style seafood dishes. Fresh fish is caught daily by the owner himself and



perfectly and authentically prepared by their talented local Chef.

Located in the heart of characteristic downtown, Driftwood offers you a unique dining experience. Enjoy the freshest fish, biggest shrimp, or the most succulent Caribbean lobster amid the rustic ambience of the natural driftwood dining room.



Special of the month

Every month the Chef treats his customers with a delicious dinner special. In June one may choose from different soups, fish cakes or salads to start with. The main

course is a choice of catch of the day (prepared your way), Jumbo Shrimp or for the meatlovers Filet Mignon or Chicken Breast. The evening is topped with a grand dessert and coffee or tea.

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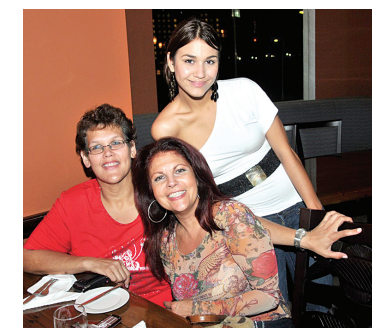
\$24
per person



each and every participant received a breakfast / lunch or dinner at Scala.

Pictures show the 60 concierges at Moby Dick's restaurant where restaurant owners Brian Reeve and Gilbert Senchi hosted the grand finale where the group enjoyed cocktails accompanied by samples of the menu including escargot, oysters, clams, fish, meats, with a variety of different complements and the legendary seafood soup. □

~ Photos by Julia Renfro ~



Close Call to debut new Album "Time" at Mr Jazz



PALM BEACH -- "Time," a new album by Close Call, singer Henny Groot Antink & guitar player Martin Buitenweg, is debuting on Friday at Mr Jazz, Paso Herencia.

They two talented musicians started working together occasionally in 2005 in various hotels & restaurants around the island and consequently decided to put together some musical ideas they shared, which finally resulted in the upcoming release of the album "Time."

To check out the audio & video samples you may go to: www.closecall-aruba.com

The press and the general public are invited on Friday 26th of June, to Mr. Jazz at Paseo Herencia, Palm Beach for a concert and a party starting at 8.30 p.m. The entrance is free and a Mojito welcome drink & snacks are complimentary.

About Close Call

Martin reports he met Henny Groot Antink about five years ago when she substituted for another great talent, Mirugia de Cuba, a popular local singer,

It was a very last minute, four hour gig at the Hyatt Regency, so he was not sure what he was getting himself into.

Martin admits he was pleasantly surprised when he found out they shared the same repertoire, moreover when Henny opened her mouth to sing, her sound was in tune and pure....and what impressed him most was her ability to improvise.

Henny sings like the wind, Martin affirms, her voice can go anywhere she wants, around any obstacle or even right through it. She is a master of melody and rhythm, in and out, up and down, Henny expertly spins her music and as a result of that skill, the duo had a blast on that first performance, and every time they played together since, it never sounds the same, yet it always sounds right on target. After a number of appearances together Martin decided to let Henny hear a few chord changes that he was struggling with in search of a catchy melody and evocative lyrics. A few days later she came back to Martin's studio and asked him to repeat that progression,

which he did, and then he heard the missing pieces fall right into place, as performed by Henny!

This creative process repeated itself a few times, eleven times to be exact, and what they came up with is the album "Time" which they are releasing on Friday, the 26th of June @ Mr. Jazz, with a concert and a party starting at 8.30 p.m.

Henny story is different yet similar. She heard about Martin even before arriving on the island, through some mutual friends in the Dutch music scene. So when she was looking for a guitarist to form a duo, she automatically thought about him. Unfortunately he wasn't that interested in playing with her, and advised her to contact another well known, talented guitarist, Antonio Bello, for a better musical fit. The match was successful and Henny & Antonio have been working together ever since.

However, when Martin and Henny finally did share a stage unexpectedly, she was very pleasantly surprised. His sound, the way he rearranges



the music, in his own unique style, was something completely different than anything Henny had heard before. So when Martin asked her to listen to some samples

he composed, to see if she could add melody lines and lyrics, it was a challenge she couldn't resist!

Together they've been molding, rearranging and forming the songs for the new album, over and over until they were both completely satisfied with the results. They took their time, and even played the songs successfully to a live audience at last years' Caribbean Sea Jazz Festival, in September, which gave them the final push and true confidence to really conclude the work.

Henny & Martin will play ten songs on Friday, off the new CD with a fantastic 8-piece band, with terrific musicians such as Jeremy Bonarriba on drums, Erik Eman on bass, Angelo Kock piano and synth, Riky Hernandez on percussion, and vocalists Mirugia de Cuba and Lucre Houtman.

You are invited to listen to lead vocalist Henny Groot Antink and Martin Buitenweg on guitars, singing original compositions, recorded, mixed and mastered at Martin's Earthwalk Studios Aruba.

For more information go to: www.closecall-aruba.com



Elements of govt branches accord not new, says Sarah

~ Says she's curious about Plan B ~

WILLEMSTAD--While the idea of the government branch offices accord signed in Curaçao late Tuesday is new, the elements are not any different from those of other accordssignedduringthetenure of the former government, Democratic Party leader Island Councilwoman Sarah Wescot-Williams said Tuesday. The former constitutional affairs commissioner, who is currently in Curaçao and will take part in today's Political Steering Group meeting, also reaffirmed her commitment to support the cause of Country St. Maarten. However, she expressed concerns about reports coming out of the Netherlands that an alternative constitutional option other than country status is likely to be proposed for St. Maarten at today's meeting – a move she said she would not back.

"In the Netherlands, the State Secretary [Ank Bijleveld-Schouten] has been hinting at a Plan B for St. Maarten and I don't know if this will come up in the talks [today], but I am curious to know what this

[Plan B] position is, because St. Maarten's stance is one of Country St. Maarten and we are not out to discuss anything that is not in line with that decision by the people, and coincidentally we are celebrating the ninth year of the referendum [yesterday]." Wescot-Williams said she was not against the accord, as the elements were nothing new. "When I look at what we have currently in front of us, as far as I am concerned there is nothing wrong with it because nothing new is basically being said.

"The Central Government on different occasions has committed itself to doing similar things where it pertains to facilitating and helping St. Maarten set up and support, but in practice not much has come from these commitments. So while there is nothing inherently wrong with the document, what I see in front of me now basically says nothing new. I can't detect anything in it, which I can say has never been said before or has never been committed."

She said the former Executive Council had signed agreements with the Central Government in which commitments had been made on several occasions: On December 8, 2007, on November 4, 2008, and "one or two others and it all comes down to the same thing of the Central Government saying that they will set up and they will support and they will improve, but in practice these agreements have not really been fulfilled. I don't know what it will yield in practice." Wescot-Williams also questioned the fact that the Central Government was taking an arm's length approach with respect to the financing of the agreement. "I want to give everyone the

benefit of the doubt, including the Central Government, but when you see the Central Government putting in this document that it must be budget neutral, then I ask myself: how realistic is it? What we are going after? It is not my intention to object to the document, but I think that the truth must be spoken." Asked about her commitment to Country St. Maarten, given her absence at last week's preparatory talks, she said she was on board supporting what the people of St. Maarten had voted for in the June 23, 2000, referendum. She said she had participated in some of the meetings on Tuesday and it was her intention to be a part of today's Political Steering

Group meeting.

"I am here for St. Maarten and I am very much part of St. Maarten and very much part of going after what the people of St. Maarten have voted for and I am going after that with everything that I've got," she said via telephone from Curaçao.

"I will be part of discussions and again, just like it was in the past when Commissioner William Marlin was in opposition and he on several occasions stated that he was not in agreement with how I handled certain issues, I am sure that the same thing will come up with me as well, but if Country St. Maarten is the path that is being followed, then I am on board." □

BES islands discuss civil servants, transfer of tasks


WILLEMSTAD--Political consultations were held Monday afternoon at the Marriott Hotel in Curaçao between the Central Government of the Netherlands Antilles and the BES islands of Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba.

The delegations discussed various subjects, including the early transfer of tasks on the BES islands by the Netherlands and the status of civil servants. A memorandum of understanding is expected to be signed at the end of the meeting.


The delegations of the Central Government consisted of Prime Minister Emily de Jongh-Elhage; Ministers Ersilia de Lannooy, Omayra Leeftang and Hubert "Ibi" Martis; and State Secretaries Shamara Nicholson, Ernie Simmons, and Alex Rosaria. Maruja Janga, Anthony Nicolaas, Johan Afman, and Robby Beukenboom represented Bonaire; while Commissioner Chris Johnson, Island Councilwoman Akilah Levenstone, and advisor Will Johnson were present for Saba.

St. Eustatius' delegation comprised of Commissioner Julian Woodley, Ralph Berkel, and Louis Brown. □





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 Avoid close contact with people who are sick. When you are sick, keep your distance from others to protect them from getting sick too.
- 2. Cover your mouth and nose**
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- 3. Clean your hands**
 Washing your hands often will protect you from germs.
- 4. Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth**
 Germs are often spread when a person touches something that is contaminated with germs and then touches his or her eyes, nose or mouth.
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Judge blocks 'Real Housewives of NJ' sex tape



Danielle Staub of Wayne, N.J., one of the stars of Bravo's television series 'Real Housewives of New Jersey' leaves the Passaic County courthouse in Paterson, N.J., Wednesday, June 24, 2009. A judge on Wednesday ordered an injunction banning the release of any sexually explicit video or pictures of Staub and her ex-boyfriend, Stephen Zalewski of Lincoln Park, N.J., pending a hearing next month.

(AP Photo/Mike Derer)

By DAVID PORTER, series "Real Housewives of Associated Press Writer New Jersey" went to court PATERSON, N.J. – One of Wednesday to avoid getting a the stars of Bravo's television little more exposure than she

wanted.

A judge granted Danielle Staub's request for a temporary restraining order to stop her former boyfriend Stephen Zalewski from releasing a sexually explicit videotape and images of her.

State Superior Court Judge Thomas F. Brogan also ordered Zalewski to produce all copies of the video and pictures of Staub, and he set a hearing for July 21.

Staub, 46, also filed a lawsuit against Zalewski seeking damages for invasion of privacy, defamation and infliction of emotional distress. She claimed she was unaware Zalewski was taping her and only found out about it when someone read her a Star magazine article in which Zalewski discussed the tape.

"It sickened me," Staub told the judge during the brief hearing.

Zalewski didn't appear in court, and a telephone message left Wednesday at his home in Lincoln Park, in northern New Jersey, wasn't immediately returned. It was unknown if he had retained a lawyer.

Outside court, Staub said Zalewski was trying to get back at her and her two daughters, ages 11 and 15, for her breaking up with him. She said the couple dated from May 2008 to December 2008 and Zalewski appeared briefly on "Real Housewives," which is described on Bravo's Web site as following "five of the most affluent Jersey Girls as they live lavish lifestyles and deal with all the drama that money can buy."

"This is about my kids," Staub said. "I'm a big girl. Do what you want to me.

But you broke bread with my children. Don't do this to me. No adult should ever do this to a child."

According to the suit filed by attorney Darren Del Sardo, Zalewski told Star magazine he was considering selling the videotape and images and said, "She cost me so much money, why shouldn't I make a few dollars?"

Del Sardo said the judge told him he would refer the case to the county prosecutor's office

since videotaping someone involved in sexual activity without that person's consent is prohibited under state law. Staub is one of five New Jersey women on the Bravo series, which premiered in May. Her bio on the show's Web site describes her as a newly single mother "whose history of celebrity hook-ups is one for the record books."

"Known for being brutally honest," the bio says, "Danielle enjoys pushing people's buttons and doesn't

apologize for it."

Outside the courthouse, passers-by called greetings to Staub, and a small crowd gathered around her to take pictures with cell phones.

"I like her. I like the fact that she's outspoken," said Cassandra Jordan, of Paterson, a devoted "Housewives" watcher.

Her daughter, Brenda Jordan, had some words for Zalewski: "I think he just needs to find something better to do with himself," she said. □



FILE - In a Friday, April 3, 2009 file photo, Paul McCartney participates in press conference in New York. The Atlanta, Ga., Piedmont Conservancy said Wednesday, June 24, 2009 that the 67-year-old ex-Beatle will perform in Piedmont Park on Aug. 15, 2009.

(AP Photo/Evan Agostini, File)

"Transformers" midnight shows rake in \$16 million

By Gregg Kilday

LOS ANGELES (Hollywood Reporter) – "Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen" stormed into about 3,000 U.S. theaters late Tuesday night, capturing a mighty \$16 million from the first midnight screenings of the action sequel that is expected to be a major blockbuster.

The opening night figure puts the Paramount Pictures release, directed by Michael Bay, in impressive company.

Batman movie "The Dark Knight" holds the record for midnight grossers, having picked up \$18.5 million in 2008, and 20th Century Fox's "Star Wars: Episode III -- Revenge of the Sith" grossed \$16.9 million in 2005.

"Revenge of the Fallen" can boast the biggest midnight gross for a movie opening on a Wednesday.

Imax, which is showing the movie on its large-format screens, reported that all 160 locations sold out their midnight shows, and some of them quickly added 3 a.m. screenings. The Imax haul amounted to just over \$1 million, surpassing Imax midnight record setter "The Dark Knight," which took in \$675,000 on Imax screens last summer.

The debut of "Revenge of the Fallen" also overshadowed May's bow of Paramount's own "Star Trek," a Friday opener that collected \$4 million at Thursday evening screenings and then took in another \$3 million at midnight screenings. □

Paul McCartney to play benefit in Atlanta park

ATLANTA – Paul McCartney is coming to Atlanta for a summer concert to benefit the city's historic Piedmont Park.

The Piedmont Conservancy that cares for the city park said Wednesday that the 67-year-old ex-Beatle will perform in the park on Aug. 15.

The show is expected to dwarf the conservancy's 2007 Dave Matthews Band and The Allman Brothers Band show that attracted 50,000.

Money raised goes to maintaining and expanding the sprawling and heavily used park in the shadow of Midtown Atlanta's skyscrapers. The park dates back to a private club founded in 1887. □

BUSINESS

Aruba TODAY



In this photograph made on Sunday, June 21, 2009, Colorado Rockies' Ryan Spilborghs heads to the batter's box in his Nike cleats to bat against the Pittsburgh Pirates in the first inning of a baseball game in Denver. Nike Inc. reports fiscal fourth-quarter results after the market close Wednesday, June 24.

(AP Photo/David Zalubowski)

Nike 4Q profit declines on costs to cut jobs

PORTLAND, Ore. — Athletic footwear and apparel company Nike Inc. reported Wednesday that its profit dropped in its fiscal fourth quarter on costs to cut jobs, but adjusted results beat Wall Street expectations.

However, Nike also said orders for the next several months are down sharply compared with last year, and investors sent shares down \$3.61, or nearly 7 percent, in after-hours trading.

Nike said its net income fell 30 percent to \$341.4 million, or 70 cents per share for the quarter that ended May 31. That's down from \$490.5 million, or 98 cents per share, that Nike earned in the same quarter of last year.

Nike's revenue fell 7 percent to \$4.7 billion for the quarter.

The most recent results include a nearly \$200 million pre-tax charge tied to a reduction of Nike's workforce and other restructuring measures. Excluding special items, the company earned 99 cents per share for the quarter.

Analysts polled by Thomson Reuters expected the company to earn 96 cents per share. Analyst estimates typically exclude one-time items.

Like most consumer products makers, Nike has seen larger economic pressures take a toll on business with fluctuations in foreign currency and weak consumer spending affecting its bottom line. The company took several steps to cope by containing costs during the year. The most significant move was cutting 1,750 jobs, or 5 percent of its work force, during the fourth quarter.

Nike's picture may remain challenging as orders for product to be delivered June through November are 12 percent lower than orders reported in the same period last year.

For the full year, Nike's profit fell to \$1.49 billion, or \$3.03 per share, down from \$1.88, or \$3.74 per share in the prior year. Adjusted for several one-time items in both years, the company's net income grew 7 percent to \$1.9 billion, or \$3.81 per share, for the 2009 fiscal year — above analyst expectations of \$3.77.

Beaverton, Ore.-based Nike's revenue rose 3 percent to \$19.2 billion for the year. □

Stocks end mostly higher after Fed assessment

By MADLEN READ and TIM PARADIS,
AP Business Writers

NEW YORK — The Federal Reserve didn't surprise investors but still left them disappointed.

Stocks ended mixed but mostly higher after the Fed said the economy was on the mend. However, bond prices fell after the Fed said it wouldn't step up its spending to purchase Treasuries and other debt to pry interest rates lower.

The central bank's decision Wednesday to leave its key lending rate at a low of zero to 0.25 percent wasn't a surprise but some investors have been hoping the central bank would do more to revive the economy. Others wanted it to more clearly lay out how it will keep inflation in check.

"The Fed is still stuck on that tightrope of trying to make sure they provide enough reassurance to keep the recovery going but at the same time try to allay the concern that they won't allow inflation to get going either," said Bruce McCain, chief investment strategist at Key Private Bank in Cleveland.

In the economic assessment statement accompany its rate decision, the Fed said the economy's rate of decline appears to be slowing. It noted that consumer spending has shown further signs of stabilizing although job losses, shrinking wealth and tight credit remain problems. And while the Fed said economic activity is likely to remain weak for some time, it repeated its belief that stimulus policies will restore the economy to growth.

Policymakers noted that energy and other commodities prices have risen, although they said "substantial resource slack" would likely rein in cost pressures and that inflation "will remain subdued for some time." The Fed also didn't say it would increase its purchases



A specialist works at his post on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange after the Fed interest rate decision, Wednesday, June 24, 2009. Policymakers at the Federal Reserve decided to leave a key interest rate unchanged at between zero and 0.25 percent, where it has been since December.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

of Treasuries or other kinds of government debt, disappointing some investors who had hoped for more. The Fed has said it would buy \$1.25 trillion in mortgage-backed securities and \$300 billion in Treasuries in an effort to stimulate the economy by keeping borrowing rates low.

According to preliminary calculations, the Dow Jones industrial average fell 23.05, or 0.3 percent, to 8,299.86. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 5.84, or 0.7 percent, to 900.94, and the Nasdaq composite index rose 27.42, or 1.6 percent, to 1,792.34. The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note, which moves opposite its price, rose to 3.69 percent from 3.63 percent Tuesday.

Although the Fed has held its target interest rate steady since late last year, its statements have touched off big moves in stocks. In January, the statement coincided with hopes for a plan for banks' toxic assets; in March, the Fed announced it would start buying Treasuries; and in April, the Fed said it was seeing signs the recession is easing.

"I don't think there's a whole lot of real good news," said Steven Stahler, president of The

Stahler Group in Baton Rouge, La., referring to the Fed's outlook. "There's absolutely no clear-cut view or clear-cut evidence that we're out of the woods. There's nothing here that is a nice green light. It's more of the same."

Stocks had been sharply higher early in the day following a surprise jump in orders for big-ticket manufactured items. The Commerce Department said durable goods orders rose 1.8 percent in May. Economists surveyed by Thomson Reuters had anticipated a drop.

The Commerce Department later said sales of new homes fell 0.6 percent last month, while the market had expected a rise.

Recent gauges of the economy have been improving, but they have not yet pointed to growth. Many investors are nervous that a recovery could be hampered if the Fed raises interest rates too soon or starts dismantling its emergency supports for the financial system.

In corporate news, software maker Oracle Corp.'s results late Tuesday for its most recent quarter exceeded analysts' average forecast. Oracle shares gained \$1.39, or 7 percent, to \$21.26, helping the tech-heavy Nasdaq. □

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More women in finance, a more sustainable economy

By Linda Basch

New York – The amount of taxpayer dollars that has gone into cleaning up our top financial institutions' collective mess is staggering. Bank of America received \$15 billion as part of the federal Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP). Citigroup, JPMorgan Chase, and Wells Fargo each received \$25 billion. But here's a cost-effective solution: Hire more women.

As has been pointed out with increasing frequency, a certain groupthink has been widely blamed for the economic crisis we find ourselves in today.

Barnard College president Deborah Spar dubbed our predicament a "one gender crash," and The New York Times's Nicholas Kristof wonders if we might all have been better off had it been "Lehman Brothers and Sisters."

Studies indicate that women are more comprehensive thinkers and less attracted to excessive risk than are their male peers. It seems we have reached a fairly broad consensus on the meltdown: Guys were the ones flying too close to the sun.

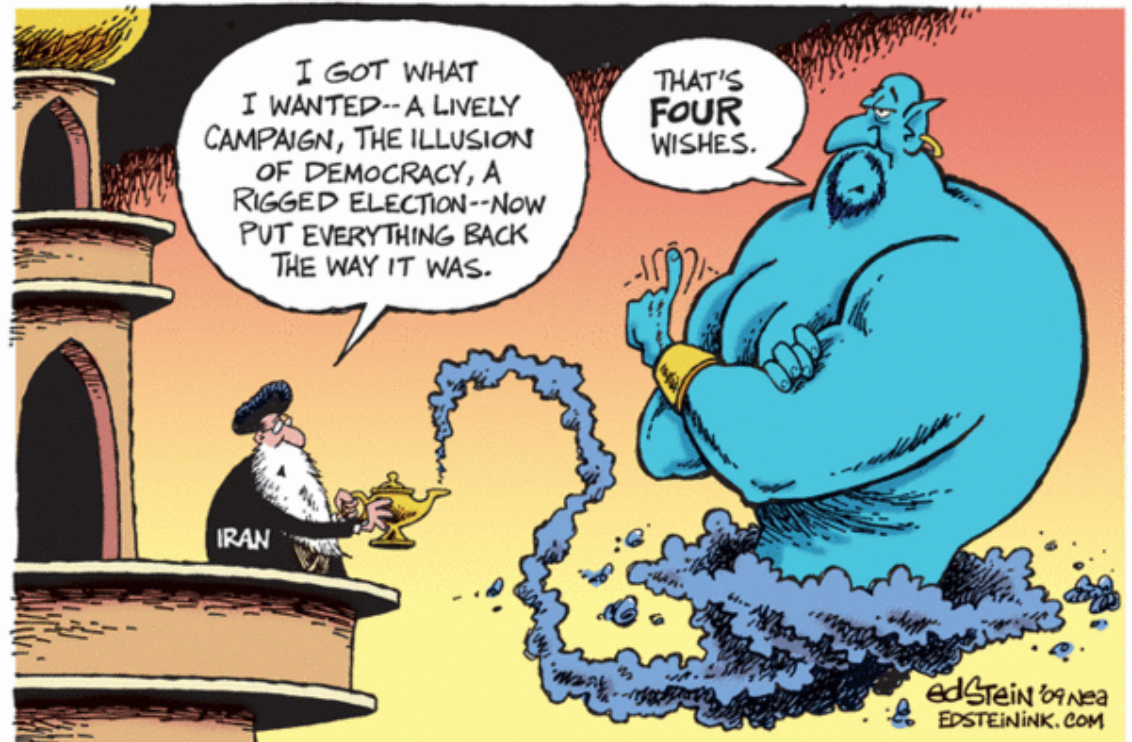
Now that we've landed back on earth with a mighty thud – a little humbler and a whole lot poorer – it's time to deal with the most important question of the day: How do we get more women into the good-old-boys network at the highest levels of the financial sector?

Recently, the Financial Times (not exactly a bastion of feminist ideology), called for a gender quota for corporate boards – sparking floods of outraged responses from readers.

Such recommendations usually unleash a swift and vigorous backlash against rocking the status quo. Arguments are made about how diversity somehow degrades the talent pool – irrelevant, of course, because women are just as talented as men and in abundant supply.

The Financial Times is spot on. It's time that the financial sector – at all levels, but especially at the top – institutes what we at the National Council for Research on Women are calling the "critical mass principle." Explicit quotas may be illegal, but research has found that to have significant impact on decisionmaking, women, or any other underrepresented group, need to attain a critical mass of 33.3 percent.

The bottom line is that, because of advances in women's education and careers, there are sufficient numbers of qualified women in every area of specialization and expertise. Research bears out the fact that if you get this mass of women and others from underrepresented groups in leadership positions, whether in the boardroom or the corner office, the decisionmaking dynamic changes for the better. □



GOP Pushes Back Against Dem Energy Deal

Kyle Trygstad

Following an agreement last night with Agriculture Committee Chairman Collin Peterson (D-Minn.), House Democrats are poised this week to pass an energy and climate change bill that has stewed in uncertainty since being passed out of committee one month ago. The bill will now hit the House floor on Friday, with a vote likely to take place by Saturday. The House is in recess next week.

The sudden accord followed weeks of debate within the Democratic Caucus and set off an equally quick response from Republicans, whose leadership continues to oppose the plan offered by Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Henry Waxman (D-Calif.) and Rep. Ed Markey (D-Mass.).

"House Republicans are opposed to the national energy tax that is reportedly making its way to the House floor this week," House Minority Leader John Boehner (Ohio) said at a Tuesday afternoon press conference on health care. "This is a very bad idea."

Republicans are focusing their argument on the bill's cost -- in taxes and jobs -- especially in coal-producing and agriculture-rich areas. GOP leaders argue it would cost the average household an extra \$3,000 per year in energy costs and cite a study released last month by the National Black Chamber of Commerce that predicted the bill would cost 2.5 million jobs.

"Not only will this drive up prices for food, gasoline, and electricity, it will ship millions of jobs to competitors like China and India that refuse to take the same approach," Boehner wrote Tuesday in an op-ed in the Washington Examiner.

Democrats pushed back yesterday by highlighting an analysis by the Environmental Protection Agency, which found it would cost the average household 22 to 30 cents per day, totaling \$80 to \$111 extra in energy costs per year.

"Today's report puts to rest the misleading attacks that have been leveled against a clean energy economy at every step," Speaker Nancy Pelosi said.

The National Republican Congressional

Committee shot off press releases yesterday into the districts of Iowa Democrats Bruce Braley and Dave Loebsack -- both second-term lawmakers in formerly Republican districts.

"With fellow Iowa Democrat Leonard Boswell's office stating that the National Energy Tax will hurt Iowa families, it's time for Bruce Braley to come clean and tell his Iowa constituents where he stands on the controversial bill. Does he side with Iowa families or with his liberal leader, Nancy Pelosi?" asked NRCC communications director Ken Spain in one of the releases.

A second NRCC press release went out to 20 other Democrats that represent rural areas. "As Rep. Bobby Bright (D-AL) prepares to vote on the climate change bill in Congress this week, Speaker Pelosi is plotting to snag Bright's vote for her costly, job-killing climate bill at the expense of middle-class agriculture jobs in Alabama," one release states.

House Minority Leader Eric Cantor (Va.) and other Republicans from coal-producing states have scheduled a press conference for Wednesday morning. The sub-headline of the press release announcing the event reads, "National Energy Tax is Wrong for Coal Country and Will Cost Americans Jobs."

Perhaps muting some Republican arguments against the bill, though, is the support from members like Rep. Rick Boucher (D), who has represented coal-rich southwestern Virginia since being elected to the House in 1982. Boucher penned an op-ed in Roll Call Monday calling the bill "essential" and federal controls of greenhouse gas emissions "inevitable."

Boucher wrote that he remained concerned about certain details of the bill, including the percentage of greenhouse gas reductions required by 2020. "Despite these reservations, and my intention to seek additional modifications, I believe that the time to pass a cap-and-trade program of greenhouse gas controls has arrived," he wrote.

Pelosi's office announced Monday night that a potential agreement with Peterson was in place, and on Tuesday Democrats worked to solidify an accord with the Waxman-Markey bill's greatest intraparty opponent. □

New Strategy Eyed for AIDS Treatment

A radical new therapy could improve treatment of people with HIV-AIDS by destroying the viruses circulating in the body as well as those hiding in immune system cells, according to a new study.

A team of American and Canadian researchers have high hopes for a combination of targeted chemotherapy and what's known as highly active anti-retroviral (HAART) treatments.

When HIV viruses hide in immune cells, the researchers explained, existing HAART treatments can't reach them. But the study identified where HIV hides in immune cells and the "stealth" mechanisms that enable the virus to elude existing treatments. This finding could lead to new therapies that are different than current treatments, they said.

"Our results argue in favor of a strategy similar to the one used against leukemia, which is targeted chemotherapy, associated with a targeted immune treatment," study co-leader Dr. Rafick-Pierre Sekaly, a professor at the University of Montreal and scientific director of the Vaccine and Gene Therapy Institute of Florida, said in a university news release. "This would make it possible to destroy the cells containing a virus while giving the immune system time to regenerate with healthy cells."

Another co-leader, Dr. Jean-Pierre Routy, an infection and immunity researcher at the Research Institute of the McGill University Health Centre in Montreal, explained the importance of the finding.

"For the first time, this study proves that the HIV reservoirs are not due to a lack of potency of the antiretroviral drugs but to the virus hiding inside two different types of long-life CD4 memory immune cells," Routy said in the news release. "There are several types of HIV reservoirs, each necessitating a different treatment to eliminate them."

The researchers acknowledged, however, that it will take many more years of work before the finding might lead to new treatments for people with HIV-AIDS.

The study appears in the journal Nature Medicine. □

Disease prevention often costs more than it saves

By CARLA K. JOHNSON,
AP Medical Writer

CHICAGO – When it comes to health care spending, an ounce of prevention is seldom worth a pound of cure. Take Mrs. Jones, a hypothetical 55-year-old obese woman at risk for diabetes. It costs \$900 a year to hire a personal lifestyle coach to help her lose weight and prevent diabetes. Suppose that the coaching works for Mrs. Jones, and she is spared diabetes and all the resulting health bills.

But research shows that for every person like Mrs. Jones, six other people just like her get nothing out of such a program. They either don't lose weight or get diabetes anyway or wouldn't have developed it in the first place. The yearly cost of the prevention program for those six people: \$5,400.

That's probably more than Mrs. Jones' health bills from diabetes would have amounted to.

There goes your pound of cure.

The truth is, shockingly few prevention efforts actually save the health care system money overall, despite claims by the president and some in Congress.

Discussing daily aspirin use with people at risk of heart disease does save money. So do vaccinations for children. When doctors talk to smokers and offer medication to help them quit, that, too, saves money.

But those are the exceptions.

Prevention is a good deal, some experts say, if you can buy one year of perfect health for less than \$50,000. □

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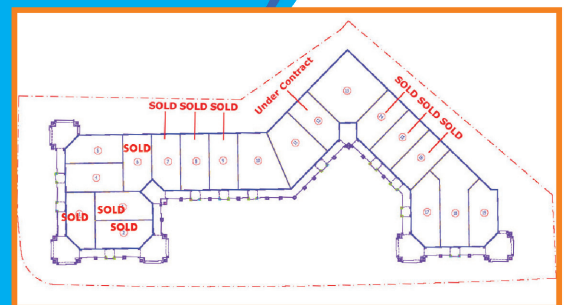
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EAGLE BEACH - Oasis Luxury Condominiums is a Mediterranean-style designed complex located on the prestigious Eagle Beach right next to Chalet Suisse consisting of a total of 35 units distributed on five (5) floors. The one, two and three bedroom suites have a perfect view of the ocean and beach. The units include, among other amenities, floor to ceiling glass doors and panoramic windows, spacious terraces, marble bathrooms, European kitchens

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tributed on five (5) floors. The one, two and three bedroom suites have a perfect view of the ocean and beach. The units include, among other amenities, floor to ceiling glass doors and panoramic windows, spacious terraces, marble bathrooms, European kitchens

with granite counter tops and a full stainless steel appliance package including washer and dryer. This 35-condominium complex will feature a beautiful swimming pool with a beach style entry with waterfalls and fountain and state of the art fiber optic lighting. The entrance of the building has a drive-up covered entrance and an elegant two-story lobby leading to the sun-filled hallways and corridors. The common area will facilitate the owners with a well-equipped gym overlooking the gardens and the pool.

The garden will feel like an oasis true to the projects name. There will also be a recreation room and sofas throughout the common area to lounge and relax. Further amenities include a 24/7 security, a full concierge and a rental program for the owners who want to earn a return on their investment. The concierge service will be helpful to assist the owners in making their 'homecoming' a very pleasant return. Each condo will have one designated parking space exclusive to the owners.

Construction on Oasis at Eagle

Beach is moving fast. Fifteen of the thirty five units have already been sold. The condominiums will be ready for occupancy by March 2010. Oasis is located on Eagle Beach which allows for an easy access, even on foot, to the best casinos, restaurants, golf courses, shopping areas and night life the Aruba has to offer. The experienced sales team of Oasis invites you for a visit to learn about this new gem on the beach.

The site tour will take you up in the complex where you will enjoy spectacular views of the ocean and beach as well as a wonderful view of Oranjestad where the cruise ships are docked. The views from the rooftop terrace are stunning to say the least. The Oasis sales team is ready to assist you.

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PALM BEACH - The health and calorie conscious among us need fear steakhouses no more. Whether it's a low-carb, low-fat, or even vegetarian diet you follow, Texas de Brazil Churrascaria fits into just about every dieter's menu plan.

Low carb eaters will have all their expectations surpassed with a tempting carnivorous selection of umpteen cuts of sizzling beef, pork, lamb, sausage, and poultry. The meats are prepared in the healthiest style of cooking—slow roasting—where much of the fat drips off in the roasting process, so those looking for a lower fat option to sautéing, pan frying, or deep frying will also be able to indulge.

The Brazilian-style steakhouse also offers a garden full of healthy eats on a lavish 40-item seasonal salad bar, giving dieters plenty to choose from to accompany the

slow-roasted meats. A selection of fresh lettuces and vegetables may be standard for most salad bars, but Texas de Brazil's version goes a gourmet twist further, treating the palate to additional items like marinated portabella mushrooms, sweet roasted bell peppers, hearts of palm, sundried tomatoes, imported cheeses—including fresh buffalo mozzarella—sushi, homemade soups, and much more.

The salad bar is included in the continuous service meal with unlimited choices from the grilled meats, but for vegetarians or the non-meat eaters, a special price is offered for just the salad bar. Of course, for those looking to splurge while on vacation, Texas de Brazil will gladly serve their garlic mashed potatoes, traditional fried plantains, and their world-famous parmesan cheese bread as part of the meal.

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South Carolina Gov. Mark Sanford wipes his tears as he admitted to having an affair during a news conference in Columbia, S.C. Wednesday, June 24, 2009, and said he is resigning as chairman of the Republican Governors Association.

Associated Press

Latest governor scandal is a blow to Republicans

JIM DAVENPORT

Associated Press Writer

COLUMBIA, South Carolina (AP) — The governor of South Carolina and rumored 2012 presidential contender tearfully confessed Wednesday to having an affair with a woman in Argentina, dealing the latest blow to a struggling Republican Party.

Gov. Mark Sanford, who caused a ruckus after he could not be located by staff, family and friends for several days, apologized to his wife and four sons and said he will resign as head of the Republican Governors Association.

"I've been unfaithful to my wife," he said in a bombshell news conference in which the 49-year-old governor ruminated aloud with remarkable frankness on God's law, moral absolutes and following one's heart. He said he spent the last five days "crying in Argentina." His family did not attend.

At least one state lawmaker called for his resignation. As a congressman, Sanford voted in favor of three of four articles of impeachment against Democratic President Bill Clinton citing the need for "moral legitimacy."

Sanford's infidelity admission adds to an ever-growing list of woes for the out-of-power Republican Party as it looks to rebound against the popular President Barack Obama and his emboldened Democrats. The episode is another distraction for a party seeking a turnaround

after disastrous losses in consecutive national elections as it confronts a stark reality: its less than diverse ranks are steadily shrinking, its regional heft is limited to the South and it lacks a leader of stature to guide the party back to power.

Excerpts of e-mail exchanges between the governor and his mistress were published online Wednesday by The State. The governor's office wouldn't discuss the e-mails with The Associated Press, but told The State it wouldn't dispute the authenticity of the messages.

One from the governor read: "I could digress and say that you have the ability to give magnificent gentle kisses, or that I love your tan lines or that I love the curve of your hips, the erotic beauty of you holding yourself (or two magnificent parts of yourself) in the faded glow of the night's light — but hey, that would be going into sexual details."

The woman in question, who lives in Argentina, has been a "dear, dear friend" for about eight years but, Sanford told reporters, the relationship didn't become romantic until a little over a year ago.

He's seen her three times since then, and his wife found out about it five months ago. He did not identify the woman.

"What I did was wrong. Period," he said. He refused to say whether he will leave office.

Continued on Page B4

Ca. doomsday: State could run out of cash



In this Wednesday June, 17, 2009 picture, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger discusses the state budget deficit outside his Capitol office in Sacramento, Calif. Schwarzenegger has said state government operations will come to a "grinding halt," if lawmakers fail to pass a balanced budget by July 28.

JUDY LIN

Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO, California (AP) — To hear Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and state finance officials tell it, July 28 is California's last stand before fiscal Armageddon.

Top financial officers say that's when the state will run out of cash to pay its daily expenses unless lawmakers pass a balanced budget.

Continued on Page B5



N.Korea threatens U.S.; world anticipates missile

HYUNG-JIN KIM

Associated Press Writer

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korea accused Washington of seeking to "provoke a second Korean War" as the regime prepared to hold maritime military exercises off the eastern coast.

U.S. and regional authorities were watching closely for signs that North Korea might fire short- or mid-range missiles during the June 25 to July 10 timeframe cited in a no-sail ban for military drills sent to Japan's Coast Guard.

Continued on Page B7

Crucial senator says immigration revamp possible



This Jan. 23, 2007 file photo shows Maricopa County Sheriff's Detention officers Ralphaelita Montoya, right, and Victor Navarette, beginning the initial on-scene processing of a suspected illegal immigrant, in Wickenburg, Ariz. As America's busiest immigrant smuggling hub, Arizona has earned the distinction as a place that's tough on people who sneak across the border.

Associated Press

SUZANNE GAMBOA

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — A senator leading the Democrats' push to revise the nation's immigration laws this year said Wednesday it can be done if his party and immigration advocates get tougher on

illegal immigration.

"The public is tired of the rhetoric and wants a real solution," said Sen. Chuck Schumer, chairman of the Senate Judiciary immigration subcommittee. "The 'amnesty, amnesty, amnesty' was white hot two years ago. People still

don't want amnesty, but they want a solution."

Schumer spoke out the day before President Barack Obama meets with lawmakers from both parties in hopes of launching a full-scale debate on a plan to rework immigration policy before the end of the year.

White House spokesman Nick Shapiro said the administration is not ready to say when a proposal will be developed. Instead, Thursday's gathering of officials from across the ideological spectrum is meant as a starting point.

"You should expect an honest discussion of the issues where we can identify areas of agreement, and areas where we still have work to do," Shapiro said.

On such a sensitive issue, with politicians of different parties and geographic bases disagreeing passionately, the idea is for all factions to come together around a broad compromise before bringing

it into the public arena for debate and votes. Doing otherwise likely would result in the same kind of collapse of immigration legislation that happened in 2007, despite former President George W. Bush's support for it.

Schumer said the environment to rework immigration laws is much better now because Americans are looking for resolution and Republicans recognize "they are headed nowhere" if they can't improve in the polls with Hispanic voters.

He said Democrats have to toughen their position.

"I've told the advocates we have to come down hard on illegal immigration," Schumer said. "I say illegal immigrants. Two years ago Democrats said undocumented workers, which made people say, 'Hmm. Maybe Democrats don't think it's bad to be an illegal immigrant.'"

Schumer said issuing fraud-resistant cards to all Americans

wanting a job and harshly punishing employers who hire someone without one would help stem the flow of illegal immigrants. The cards would have an electronic identifier or biometric, such as fingerprints.

The White House meeting was originally scheduled for this month, but was postponed twice, leading many to question whether Obama intended to keep his campaign pledge to revamp immigration this year.

Obama told a Hispanic prayer breakfast last week that he is committed to a comprehensive immigration overhaul that includes a way for illegal immigrants to become U.S. citizens. He also said he supports strengthening U.S. borders to thwart illegal immigration. White House press secretary Robert Gibbs also said, however, that there may not be enough votes to pass sweeping revisions this year. □



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Attorney general wants cocaine sentences review

DEVLIN BARRETT

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) —

Attorney General Eric Holder sought support Wednesday for erasing the gap in prison sentences for crack and powder cocaine crimes, a disparity that hits black defendants harder than any others.

The effort to change federal sentencing laws for cocaine has broad support but may still unravel amid disagreements about how equal the sentences should be, and whether the whole sentencing system needs to be changed.

“One thing is very clear: We must review our federal cocaine sentencing policy,” Holder said at a legal discussion sponsored by the Congressional Black Caucus. Under current law, it takes 100 times more powdered cocaine than crack cocaine to trigger the same harsh, mandatory minimum sentences.

“This administration firmly believes that the disparity in crack and powdered cocaine sentences is unwarranted,” Holder said. “It must be eliminated.”

The law was passed in the 1980s during the spread in American cities of crack, a solid form of the narcotic, which officials blamed for a rise in violence. Yet in the years since, worries about crack have declined.

The most recent government figures show that 82 percent of crack offenders are black, while just 9 percent are white.

In remarks at the Congressional Black Caucus event, Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer, who helped craft the sentencing guidelines that now are the subject of so much criticism and debate, urged Congress to focus first on the laws creating mandatory minimums for certain crimes. “My goodness, those mandatory minimums drive (sentencing) guidelines in 100 different ways,” Breyer said. The justice acknowledged that curtailing mandatory minimums is not politically popular, or easy. “It’s very, very hard to explain to people,” he said.

The Obama administration

wants to change the law to end the 100-to-1 ratio in sentencing, and make it strictly 1-to-1. Some lawmakers also want to change the law but are not certain it should be reduced that drastically. There also is debate over whether to close the gap by raising the penalty for powder cocaine, along with lowering the penalty for crack.

Holder, the nation’s top law enforcement officer and a former judge in Washington, D.C., said juries have acquitted black defendants because they knew the suspects faced what jurors viewed as an unfairly long prison sentence. Holder was U.S. attorney in Washington during the mid-1990s, when the U.S. capital had a major crack problem.

The 100-to-1 ratio “is racial discrimination in practice,” said Democratic Rep. Bobby Scott, who is pushing legislation that would end the gap by eliminating crack as a category in the criminal code. “I think there is a complete consensus that the present pattern for sentencing crack and powder is absurd,” Scott said. “There is not complete consensus about what to do about it.”

Mark Osler, a law professor at Baylor University and a former prosecutor, said there is general agreement about changing the law on crack cocaine, but any such change probably would lead to other, more difficult questions.

“Going to 1-to-1 is a big change. The question that really hasn’t been resolved is 1-to-1 at what level. Is the penalty for cocaine powder going up?” Osler asked. “Also, there’s a general consensus that we’ll see something happen with crack. I’ll be very interested to see if they argue for a move toward broader reform in sentencing.”

The Bush administration fought vigorously to preserve the current drug law that President Barack Obama, Democrats and some Republicans say is unfair and outdated. Individual prosecutors and judges also have criticized the law. □

Doctor in dramatic South Pole rescue dies

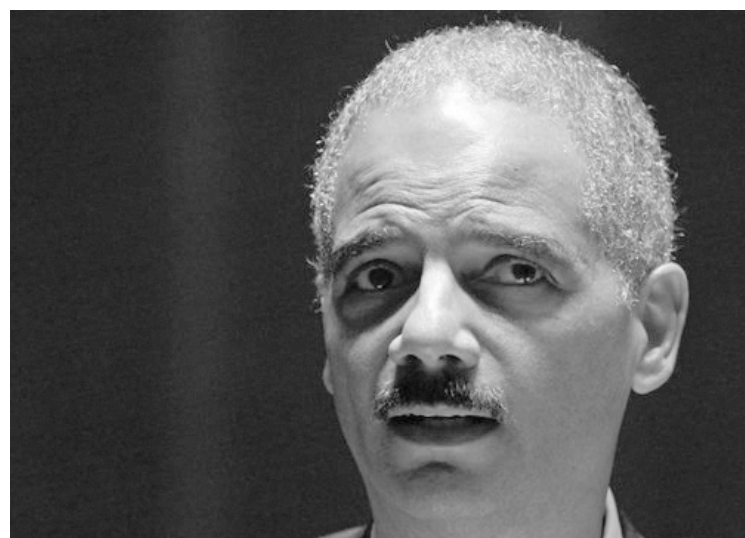
MARK PRATT

Associated Press Writer

BOSTON (AP) — Dr. Jerri Nielsen FitzGerald, who diagnosed and treated her own breast cancer before a dramatic rescue from the South Pole, has died at age 57.

Her husband, Thomas FitzGerald, said she died Tuesday at their home in Southwick, Mass. Her cancer had been in remission until it returned in August 2005, he said Wednesday.

She was the only doctor among 41 staff at the National Science Foundation’s Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station in winter 1999 when she discovered a lump in her breast. At first, she didn’t tell anyone, but the burden became too much to



Attorney General Eric Holder speaks at panel discussion titled “Rethinking Federal Sentencing Policy, 25th Anniversary of the Sentencing Reform Act.”, at the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center in Washington, Wednesday, June 24, 2009.

Associated Press



In this 1999 file photo released by the National Science Foundation, Dr. Jerri Nielsen, a National Science Foundation physician, is shown at the ceremonial South Pole. Dr. Jerri Nielsen FitzGerald, whose struggle against breast cancer during a winter at the South Pole captivated the world, died Tuesday, June 23, 2009, at their home in Southwick, Mass, said her husband, Thomas Fitzgerald. The cause was cancer. She was 57.

Associated Press

bear. interview. “I had great big lymph nodes under my arm. I thought I would die.” □

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GOVERNOR SCANDAL*Continued from Page B1*

Critics said he neglected his gubernatorial authority and put the state at risk by leaving the country without formally transferring power. It wasn't clear how his staff could reach him in an emergency.

Sanford revealed Wednesday morning that he had gone to Argentina for a seven-day trip. For two days after reporters starting asking questions, his office had said he had gone hiking on the Appalachian Trail, a well-known hiking route along 2,178 miles (3,505 kilometers) of the eastern U.S.

Sanford denied instructing his staff to cover up his affair, but acknowledged that he told them he thought he would be hiking on the Appalachian Trail and never corrected that impression after leaving for South America.

"I let them down by creating a fiction with regard to where I was going," Sanford said. "I said that was the original possibility. Again, this is my fault in ... shrouding this larger trip."

Meanwhile, first lady Jenny Sanford at first told The Associated Press she did not know where her husband went for the Father's Day weekend. She said in a statement Wednesday that she asked the governor to leave and stop speaking to her two weeks ago. The governor says he wants to reconcile, and his wife said he has earned a chance to resurrect their marriage.

"This trial separation was agreed to with the goal of ultimately strengthening our marriage," she said.

Jenny Sanford, a millionaire whose family fortune comes from the Skil Corp. power tool company, has been central to her husband's political career. She ran his congressional campaigns and his first race for governor. She was an almost daily fixture at senior staff meetings, and often could be seen driving a minivan away from the Statehouse in the mornings.

The two met when Sanford, who has an MBA, was trying his hand on Wall Street. She was working at a brokerage house when he entered a training program.

First elected governor in 2002, the former real estate developer has more than year remaining in his second term and is barred by state law from running again.

A former three-term congressman, Sanford most recently snared headlines for his unsuccessful fight to turn aside federal stimulus cash for his state's schools. His vocal battle against the Obama administration — and libertarian, small-government leanings — won praise from conservative pundits. Ultimately, a state court order required him to take the money.

The Republican Governors Association said Mississippi Gov. Haley Barbour would assume the duties as chairman.

Sanford's announcement came a day after another prominent Republican, Sen. John Ensign of Nevada, apologized to his Republican Senate colleagues after revealing last week that he had an affair with a campaign staffer and was resigning from the Republican leadership. □

Governors' Liaisons-Glance

A look at governors who were embroiled in affairs The Associated Press South Carolina's Republican Gov. Mark Sanford is one of several governors who have admitted to affairs while in office. Others include:

— Eliot Spitzer; New York, 2007-2008, Democrat.

Elected on an anti-corruption platform, Spitzer resigned after becoming embroiled in an investigation into a high-end prostitution ring. Referred to in court papers as "Client-9," Spitzer spent tens of thousands of dollars to arrange visits with prostitutes, law enforcement officials said. Prosecutors ultimately declined to file criminal charges.

— James McGreevey; New Jersey, 2002-2004, Democrat. McGreevey resigned after proclaiming himself "a gay American" and saying he'd had an extramarital affair with a man. He and wife Dina Matos divorced in August 2008.

— Bob Wise; West Virginia, 2001-2004, Democrat. Wise acknowledged in 2003 that he "was not faithful" to his family

and asked for forgiveness after a man accused the governor of having an affair with his estranged wife, a state employee. Wise, with a wife and two children, declined to run for a second term in 2004.

— Paul Patton; Kentucky, 1995-2003, Democrat. Patton was seven years into an administration that focused on education and the economy when news broke of a sexual relationship with a western Kentucky woman who owned a nursing home. Patton, who made a tearful admission on national television, finished his term but has not sought another elected office.

— Kirk Fordice; Mississippi, 1992-2000, Republican. Fordice was hospitalized after a 1996 crash when he left his security guards and drove himself 200 miles to Memphis, Tenn., for lunch with a woman who wasn't his wife. In 1999, he was photographed with the same woman coming back together from a trip to Paris. After leaving office due to term limits, Fordice divorced his wife of more than 40 years and married the woman from Memphis.

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Former President Bill Clinton speaks at a fundraising dinner for the Indiana Democratic Party in Indianapolis, Saturday, June, 20, 2009.

Associated Press

— Bill Clinton; Arkansas, 1979-1981, 1983-1992, Democrat. In the 1992 presidential race, former television reporter Gennifer Flowers claimed they had a 12-year affair. Clinton initially denied the allegation, but later acknowledged a single sexual encounter with Flowers. Clinton also was accused of sexually harassing state worker Paula Jones. It was that investigation that ultimately revealed Clinton's relationship with White House intern Monica Lewinsky. □

Probers look at track 'anomalies' in D.C. derailment

BRIAN WESTLEY

Associated Press Writers

WASHINGTON (AP) —

Investigators probing a deadly transit train crash are looking more closely at a stretch of track near the wreck site after finding abnormalities Wednesday in equipment that senses trains and transmits speed commands.

Debbie Hersman of the National Transportation Safety Board said five of six circuits, or stretches of track, in the crash area recognized a device that simulates the presence of a train. But she said there were anomalies with the sixth circuit.

Hersman would not elaborate

on what those might be, saying more tests are needed.

"We're particularly interested in the speed commands that might be sent from that circuit when there's a train standing on that circuit," Hersman said.

Equipment along each circuit receives signals that generate speed commands for the train. Hersman said the circuit in question is about 740 feet long.

Nine people, including the operator of the oncoming train, were killed Monday when a train plowed into another train that was stopped. It was the deadliest accident in Metrorail's 33-year history.

Hersman also said Wednesday that inspectors found 300 to 400 feet of markings on the rails, indicating that some emergency braking took place before the crash.

NTSB investigators were spending a second full day at the crash site near the Washington-Maryland border as they continue to examine the tracks and other equipment on Metro's red line, the system's busiest.

All the wreckage from Monday's Metro train crash has been removed from the scene as investigators work to allow Metro to restore service in the area. On Wednesday, though, the electrified "third

sharp drop in sales and income tax revenue.

The result: California's general fund, the state's main bank account, has a projected \$24.3 billion deficit for the fiscal year that begins July 1. By the end of July, incoming cash will fall below the state's payment obligations if lawmakers do not enact a balanced budget, either by slashing spending, raising taxes or doing both.

By September, California could be \$6.5 billion in the red.

In February, Schwarzenegger and the Legislature adopted a budget for the new fiscal year that was supposed to stabilize California's finances through mid-2010, but a precipitous plunge in tax revenue put the budget out of balance within weeks.

Revenue from personal income taxes, for example, fell by 34 percent for the first five months of the year, compared with the same time last year.

As income starts to drop below the level needed to maintain programs, the state is required to make choices about where to spend its money. Schools and bond holders have first dibs, followed by other debt payments.



Officials continue to work around the scene of a rush-hour collision between two Metro transit trains in northeast Washington, D.C., Tuesday evening, June 23, 2009

Associated Press

rail" on the track near the crash scene had been removed.

Hersman said investigators hoped to interview the operator

of the train that was struck on Thursday. The operator was released from the hospital Wednesday. □



Home health care workers and their supporters march past the Capitol to protest proposed state budget cuts to in-home health care services in Sacramento, Calif. on Wednesday, May 27, 2009. Facing a projected \$24.3 billion budget deficit, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and Democratic lawmakers are pressing the Obama Administration for federal loan guarantees to help the state out of a desperate, multi-billion dollar jam.

Associated Press

DOOMSDAY STATE

Continued from Page B1

The Austrian-born Schwarzenegger has warned that government will come to a "grinding halt." The state controller describes "a meltdown."

But what exactly will happen just five weeks from now is less clear-cut than the dire pronouncements suggest.

California government will not come to a dead stop: Police will still patrol the highways. Prisoners will still be guarded, and state firefighters will stand ready to put out wildfires.

Still, many services normally funded by the state, such as road projects and community health clinics, would either stop or get cut back.

Counties may not have money to run a wide array of social programs. College students who rely on state assistance might have to pay their own fees or consider leaving school.

How did California arrive at this point? The state's budgeting system was strained by years of overly exuberant spending.

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Venezuela, U.S. move to restore expelled ambassadors



Venezuela's Foreign Minister Nicolas Maduro, right, arrives at the Comalapa International airport, near San Salvador, Sunday, June 1, 2009. Maduro is in El Salvador to attend the inauguration ceremony of El Salvador's President-Elect Mauricio Funes.

Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Venezuela and the United States said Wednesday that they will return expelled ambassadors, moving to repair relations that deteriorated sharply amid hostility between Washington

and socialist President Hugo Chavez. A U.S. spokesman in Washington said the time frame was still unclear, but a top Venezuelan official said later that the exchange would happen soon. Chavez — fierce opponent of U.S.

policy who once likened President George W. Bush to the devil — has expressed hope for improved relations with Washington following years of tensions with the Bush administration. President Barack Obama says his government wants to improve ties with all nations in the Western Hemisphere. Chavez's foreign minister, Nicolas Maduro, said the two nations have agreed to overturn the "persona non grata" status given each other's ambassadors in September, when Chavez expelled U.S. Ambassador Patrick Duddy and recalled his envoy to Washington. Chavez acted then to show solidarity with Bolivia after Bolivian President Evo Morales ordered out the top U.S. diplomat in his country, accusing him of helping the opposition incite violence. Washington denied the allegation and reacted by expelling both the envoys of both Venezuela and Brazil. Maduro said that he had spoken with Thomas Shannon, the top U.S. diplomat for the Americas, and that they "effectively reached an agreement on the proposal"

to restore ambassadors as part of an effort to improve relations. "The two ambassadors will re-establish their positions immediately — our ambassador, Bernardo Alvarez, in Washington and the U.S. ambassador, Patrick Duddy, in Caracas," Maduro said. Earlier, State Department spokesman Ian Kelly told reporters in Washington that the two nations were "currently taking the necessary measures" to exchange ambassadors, but said it was unclear when it would happen or who the U.S. envoy would be. After his testy relations with the Bush presidency, Chavez has warmed to the Obama administration. He greeted the new U.S. president with handshakes at an April summit in Trinidad and Tobago, where he discussed restoring ambassadors with U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton. A spokeswoman for the U.S. Embassy in Caracas, Robin Holzhauer, said that since the summit, "we've been looking toward the goal of restoring ambassadors to our respective capitals." □



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daily:	4.55	6.10	9.30		
matinee: 12.10	2.30	late show: 11.50			
PG-13 LAND OF THE LOST					
daily:		9.00			
matinee:		late show: 11.15			
R THE TAKING OF PELHAM 123					
daily:	5.15	7.30	9.45		
matinee: 12.40	3.00	late show: 11.55			
PG-13 YEAR ONE					
daily:	5.50	8.00	10.05		
matinee: 1.30	3.40	late show: 12.10			
PG UP 3D					3D
daily:	4.45	6.50			
matinee: 12.30	2.40	late show:			
TERMINATOR SALVATION					
daily:	5.45	8.15			
PG-13 matinee: 1.00	3.25	late show: 11.00			

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PG-13 THE PROPOSAL					NEW
daily:	4.30	6.45	9.00		
matinee: 12.05	2.20	late show: 11.15			
PG-13 THE SOLOIST					NEW
daily:	5.50	8.15			
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NKOREA - U.S.

Continued from Page B1

North Korea had warned previously it would fire a long-range missile as a response to U.N. Security Council condemnation of an April rocket launch seen as a cover for its ballistic missile technology.

An underground nuclear test last month drew more Security Council action: a resolution seeking to clamp down on North Korea's trading of banned arms and weapons-related material by requiring U.N. member states to request inspections of ships carrying suspected cargo.

In a first test of the new resolution, a North Korean ship suspected of transporting illicit weapons was sailing off China's coast with a U.S. destroyer close behind.

The Kang Nam, which left the North Korean port of Nampo a week ago, is believed bound for Myanmar, South Korean and U.S. officials said.

Myanmar state television downplayed the reports of a possible weapons shipment Wednesday evening, saying another North Korean vessel was expected to pick up a load of rice but that the government had no information about the Kang Nam.

A senior U.S. defense official said Wednesday that the ship had already cleared the Taiwan Strait.

He said he didn't know how much range the Kang Nam has — that is, whether or when it may need to stop in some port to refuel — but that the Kang Nam has in the past stopped in Hong Kong's port.

Another U.S. defense official said he tended to doubt reports that the Kang Nam was carrying nuclear-related equipment, saying the information officials have received seems to indicate the cargo is conventional munitions.

The U.S. officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were discussing intelligence.

Officials said last week that they believed the ship was carrying smaller arms, though they didn't elaborate.

The U.S. and its allies have not decided whether to contact and request inspection of the ship, Pentagon press secretary Geoff Morrell said Wednesday.

"That's a decision that will have to be made at some point, and not necessarily just by us or this government," he said at a news conference. "I think we will likely take (the decision) collectively with our allies and partners."

He said he didn't believe a decision would come soon.

North Korea has said it would consider interception of its ships a declaration of war, and on Wednesday accused the U.S. of seeking to start another

Korean War.

"If the U.S. imperialists start another war, the army and people of Korea will ... wipe out the aggressors on the globe once and for all," a dispatch from the official Korean Central News Agency said.

The warning came on the eve of the 59th anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War. The brutal fighting ended after three years in a truce in 1953, not a peace treaty, leaving the peninsula divided and in a state of war. The U.S. has 28,500 troops in South Korea to protect against an outbreak of hostilities.

On Wednesday, the top U.S. commander in South Korea, Gen. Walter Sharp, praised soldiers from U.S.-led U.N. forces who died fighting the "tyranny" of communist North Korea decades ago.

"A North Korean victory in the Korean War would have brought the nightmare of tyranny to this great land, thrusting the citizens of the Republic of Korea into a darkness that their northern counterparts have yet to emerge from," he said a commemoration ceremony Wednesday, referring to South Korea by its official name, the Republic of Korea.

Reports about possible missile launches from the North highlighted the state of tension on the Korean peninsula.

A senior South Korean



South Korean war veterans salute during a rally denouncing North Korea's nuclear program and former South Korean President Kim Dae-jung's sunshine policy of offering the North aid as a way to facilitate reconciliation, in Seoul, South Korea, Wednesday, June 24, 2009. An American destroyer was tailing a North Korean ship suspected of transporting weapons toward Myanmar, as anticipation mounted Wednesday that the North could soon conduct short- or medium-range missiles tests.

Associated Press

government official said the no-sail ban is believed connected to North Korean plans to fire short- or mid-range missiles. He spoke on condition of anonymity, citing department policy.

Yonhap reported that the North may fire a Scud missile with a range of up to 310 miles (500 kilometers) or a short-range ground-to-ship missile with a range of 100 miles (160 kilometers) during the no-sail period.

U.S. defense and counterproliferation officials in Washington said they also

expected the North to launch short- to medium-range missiles. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive intelligence. South Korea will expedite the introduction of high-tech unmanned aerial surveillance systems and "bunker-buster" bombs in response to North Korea's provocations, the Chosun Ilbo newspaper said, citing lawmakers.

Meanwhile, a flurry of diplomatic efforts were under way to try getting North Korea to return to disarmament talks□

U.S. drone attack claims 80 lives in Pakistan

ROHAN SULLIVAN

Associated Press Writer

ISLAMABAD (AP) — What appeared to be the deadliest U.S. missile attack ever on Pakistani soil brought an unusual reaction in a country that has previously denounced such strikes as an affront to its sovereignty — silence.

Tuesday's attack killed 80 people, Pakistani officials said, but missed its chief target, Baitullah Mehsud. He is the country's top Taliban leader and its public enemy No. 1, accused of masterminding numerous brutal operations including the assassination of Benazir Bhutto.

These seemingly accurate targeting appeared to point to cooperation between the U.S. military and Pakistani intelligence — despite Pakistani denials. This was possible because Mehsud — unlike some other U.S. foes in the northwest tribal region on the Afghan border — is so reviled in Pakistan.

Missiles apparently fired by unmanned aircraft first struck a purported Taliban training center in South Waziristan, then another barrage rained down on a funeral procession for some of those who had been killed earlier.

Mehsud attended the funeral in



Pakistani police officers escort detained aides of Pakistani Taliban leader Baitullah Mehsud, center faces covered, as they leave after a court appearance in Karachi, Pakistan on Wednesday, June 24, 2009. The suspects were arrested Tuesday after an encounter with police.

Makeen village, and panicky militants reported losing contact with the Taliban chief for a short time immediately after the attack, according to radio intercepts cited by two Pakistani intelligence officials.

But the officials said they were later able to determine that Mehsud left the funeral shortly before the missiles struck.

The two missile strikes killed at least 80 people, including several senior militants, said the officials, speaking to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to divulge the information. Fifty-five of those killed were at the funeral, they said.

The Taliban gave a slightly lower count: Waliur Rehman, an aide to Mehsud, told the AP that 65 people were killed, including some militants.

It was not known if innocent civilians were among the dead, an issue that has drawn outrage in Pakistan and Afghanistan whenever U.S. missiles have been fired. The region is too dangerous for outsiders to enter, making independent confirmation of the attack's details impossible.

Militant leaders have been targeted in dozens of strikes in the past two years from U.S. drones, high-tech, remote control planes used for both surveillance and to fire Hellfire missiles. The U.S. military never comments on such operations. The highest known death toll in earlier suspected U.S. missile strikes in Pakistan was 30.

Pakistan has loudly disapproved of past drone attacks because they involve the use of force by a foreign government on its soil and sometimes kill innocents. But the latest strikes went unremarked upon by Pakistani

officials for almost 24 hours. When the AP asked for comment, the Foreign Ministry issued a short statement reiterating "Pakistan's consistent position that drone attacks are a violation of Pakistan's sovereignty and must be stopped."

Pakistani officials have said previously that civilian casualties occurred when the U.S. struck suspected targets on the Afghan border without Pakistan's agreement and intelligence.

At least two of those targets — Sirajuddin Haqqani and Maulvi Naseer — are fighting U.S. troops in Afghanistan, but Pakistan has no quarrel with either man.

This time, the apparent U.S. target was Pakistan's most wanted man and the focus of a military operation that is gearing up in his home territory of South Waziristan, part of the lawless tribal zone where Osama bin Laden and other high-value U.S. targets may be hiding.

The offensive comes on the back of the army's operation to oust the Taliban from another northwestern stronghold in the Swat Valley region.

Both campaigns are strongly backed by the Obama administration, which views them as a test of Pakistan's resolve to confront a growing insurgency after years of halfhearted offensives and peace deals with militants.

Many Pakistanis support the operations, fed up with the brutality the Taliban displayed in Swat and with Mehsud's increasingly widespread and bloody campaign of bombings that have killed not just security forces, but also civilians and Islamic clerics who denounced the militant violence as against the tenets of Islam.

Mehsud is also accused of engineering last year's assassination of former Prime Minister Bhutto, whose husband, Asif Ali Zardari, is now president of Pakistan.

The battle in the tribal zone, a mountainous area where the central government holds little sway over heavily armed and religiously conservative clans, will almost certainly be far tougher than in Swat.

Mehsud is believed to have some 12,000 loyal fighters, including hundreds of foreigners. He humbled the Pakistani army in past battles and has been forging fresh alliances with other powerful Taliban leaders and killing off opponents — the most recent one on Tuesday.

"Baitullah Mehsud has crossed a red line, and the Pakistan government and military is declaring open war on him," said Ishtiaq Ahmad, a Pakistan-U.S. specialist at Islamabad's Qaid-i-Azam University.

"What we are seeing now is a relatively promising scenario where there is renewed commitment and closer collaboration between Pakistan's security forces and NATO and U.S. forces in Afghanistan," he said.

That tone could change, however, if the attacks kill leaders less disliked than Mehsud and his cohorts, Ahmad said.

Mahmood Shah, a former security chief in the tribal region, said the government's failure to condemn the missile attacks forcefully could produce a backlash if the U.S. is perceived to be fighting Pakistan's battles.

"Once the impression is established that Americans are assisting in this operation, the indigenous effort will be discredited and anti-American sentiments in the tribal region will overshadow everything," Shah said. □

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Photo by Diane Keijzer



Iran police swiftly crush protest

EDITOR'S NOTE: Iranian authorities have barred journalists for international news organizations from reporting on the streets and ordered them to stay in their offices. This report is based on the accounts of witnesses reached in Iran and official statements carried on Iranian media.

BRIAN MURPHY
Associated Press Writer

A flood of security forces using tear gas and clubs quickly overwhelmed a small group of rock-throwing protesters near Iran's parliament Wednesday, and the country's supreme leader said the outcome of the disputed presidential election will stand — the latest signs of the government's growing confidence in quelling unrest on the streets.

As the election showdown has shifted, demonstrators are finding themselves increasingly scattered and struggling under a blanket crackdown that the wife of opposition leader Mir Hossein Mousavi compared to martial law. In Wednesday's clashes, thousands of police crushed hundreds of Mousavi supporters.

The statement by supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei that the June 12 election of hard-line President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad would not be reversed was accompanied by a vow that the nation's rulers would never yield to demands from the streets.

Since last week's protests, the government has unleashed days of escalating force, including the full weight of the powerful Revolutionary Guard and its feared civilian militias on the opposition.

Social networking sites carried claims of brutal tactics by police such as savage beatings with batons, but the report could not be independently confirmed.

In the battle for public opinion, the leaders also ramped up a familiar smear campaign: that the opposition was being aided by the United States and other perceived foes of Iran.

What began as groundswell protest of alleged vote fraud increasingly appears to be splintering into random acts of rage and frustration against emboldened and well-armed security forces determined to hold their ground.

Many experts in Iranian affairs do not believe the dwindling street protests signal an end for

the challenges to Khamenei and the regime. Many foresee lower-risk — but still potent — acts of dissent such as general strikes, blocking traffic with sit-ins, and the nightly cries of protest from rooftops and balconies.

"It will carry on until the regime changes: Weeks, months, years. You'd be a fool to predict," said Robert Hunter, a former U.S. ambassador to NATO and head of Middle East Affairs in the Carter administration.

"But the beast of the desire for something different is on the prowl."

Senior Israeli Defense Ministry official Amos Gilad told The Associated Press that he sees no "signs of Ahmadinejad's regime collapsing any time soon."

"The intelligence community worldwide were surprised by the protests," he said.

There are still signs of life in the protest movement. Small groups battled police Wednesday and there were calls on reformist Web sites for a gathering Thursday at the shrine of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the founder of the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

But Mousavi has increasingly turned his back on mass street demonstrations, fearing the likelihood of more violence or deaths.

Wednesday's unrest showed the lopsided odds. Groups of protesters — perhaps several hundred — tossed rocks and trash at riot police in running clashes outside parliament. The demonstrators fled as police used tear gas and fired in the air, possibly with live ammunition.

Throughout the day, black-clad security agents and police watched main streets and squares to prevent any major gatherings — a stark difference from last week when authorities generally stood aside and allowed a series of marches that brought more than 1 million people streaming through Tehran.

Mousavi's wife, Zahra Rahnava — a former

university dean who campaigned beside her husband — said on a Web site that the crackdown is "as if martial law has been imposed in the streets."

It also could be an indication of what's ahead — unless the protest movement can recapture its momentum.

The fallout may leave Khamenei and the ruling theocracy battered by once-unthinkable defiance of their leadership. But they still control the Revolutionary Guard and its vast network of volunteer militias that watch every corner of Iran.

The Guard — sworn to defend the Islamic system at all costs — has been steadily expanding its authority for years to include critical portfolios such as Iran's missile program, its oil pipelines and other energy infrastructure, and some oversight of the nuclear program.

Their stake in the Islamic system is deep and they appear now to have the green light to move against any perceived threats.

Their militia wing, known as the Basij, can operate like a neighbor-by-neighbor intelligence agency.

"The Revolutionary Guard may well emerge as the big winner of all this," said Patrick Clawson, deputy director at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy.

State television aired a documentary Wednesday lauding the Revolutionary Guard and another show about the dangers of the Internet and claiming that "Iran's enemies" were using the Web to whip up dissent.

Dozens of activists, protesters and Iranian journalists — and at least one foreign reporter — have been detained since the election, human rights groups say. The overall death toll is not clear; state media said at least 17 people have been killed. Amateur video showed the death Saturday of a woman identified as Neda Agha Soltan, who has become a worldwide symbol of the



This photo released by the official website of the Iranian supreme leader's office shows Iranian supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei during his meeting with Iranian parliamentarians, unseen, in Tehran, Iran, Wednesday, June 24, 2009. Iran's supreme leader said Wednesday that the government would not give in to pressure over the disputed presidential election, effectively closing the door to compromise with the opposition.

Associated Press

bloodshed.

A 53-year-old Tehran woman described the intense security around Baharestan Square near parliament: "There was a lot of police, riot police and Basiji everywhere." The woman spoke by phone to the AP, asking for anonymity because of fears of reprisals from authorities.

The chief of Israel's Mossad intelligence agency, Meir Dagan, told a closed

session of the Parliamentary Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that he believes the demonstrations in Iran would die down and Ahmadinejad would stay in power.

He also said the Mossad expects Iran to have nuclear weapons by 2014. Meir's statements were recounted by a participant in the meeting, speaking on condition of anonymity because the meeting was closed. □

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U.S. upsets Spain to reach Confederations Cup final

RAF CASERT

AP Sports Writer

BLOEMFONTEIN, South Africa (AP) — The United States ended Spain's record winning streak with a 2-0 upset victory Wednesday that gave it an unlikely but deserved place in the Confederations Cup final.

Jozy Altidore and Clint Dempsey exposed a sluggish Spanish defense and Tim Howard made several quality saves to stop Spain's record run at 15 wins and put the Americans into their first FIFA men's final at any level. Altidore took a deflected pass from Dempsey in the 27th minute, turned Joan Capdevila and beat Iker Casillas with a shot that bounced off the goalkeeper's hand and into the net.

Spain was caught on the break when Landon Donovan crossed into the goalmouth where two defenders misplayed the ball before Dempsey slotted it home in the 74th.

"We knew we had to pick and choose our moments to go forward," Dempsey said.



USA's Clint Dempsey, foreground left, reacts with fellow team members Oguchi Onyewu, center, Conor Casey, center right, and others at the end of their Confederations Cup semifinal soccer match at Free State Stadium in Bloemfontein, South Africa, Wednesday, June 24, 2009. The US won 2-0 and advanced to the final.

Associated Press

"We're happy with the result and we know we're going to have our work cut out to get anything out of the final."

The Americans, who will face either Brazil or host South Africa in Sunday's final, survived despite playing the final minutes without Michael Bradley, who was sent off in the 87th for a lunging tackle. Spain hadn't been beaten since a loss to Romania in November 2006.

"To beat an amazing team like Spain and make the final. It's big," United States coach Bob Bradley said. "We played as hard as we could and that's what it took."

Spain coach Vicente Del Bosque had warned his players not to be complacent, yet his team defense was tottering for much of the game.

"Losing is never good," Del Bosque said. "We're not used to losing."

The Americans knew all about it after losses to Brazil and Italy in their first two games. The team only squeezed into the semifinals because it scored more goals than a sagging Italy.

"I can't explain it any more than you can," Howard said. "Sports is funny sometimes, but when you put your mind to something, you can achieve it."

Against Spain's finest from Barcelona, Real Madrid and the Premier League, the United States had heart, grit and a big dose of luck. The Americans were outshot 29-9, but they still had enough for their biggest result since reaching the quarterfinals of the 2002 World Cup.

Altidore's goal was the first time in the tournament that Spain conceded a goal. It was also the first time in 451 minutes the European champions conceded a goal since Turkey's Semih Senturk scored on April 1.

Continued on Page B12



In this May 16, 2009 file photo, Calvin Borel rides Rachel Alexandra in the stretch of the 134th running of the Preakness Stakes horse race at Pimlico Race Course in Baltimore.

Associated Press

DAVE SKRETTA

AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The co-owner of Preakness Stakes winner Rachel Alexandra doesn't plan to run the filly in the Breeders' Cup, preventing a potential matchup with champion mare Zenyatta on the synthetic surface at Santa Anita.

Jess Jackson said on Wednesday that Rachel Alexandra, who's

Owner: Rachel Alexandra to skip Breeders' Cup

won six straight races dating to last year, could run against the boys again this summer. But he ruled out taking part in horse racing's world championships on Nov. 6-7, after the poor performance by his two-time U.S. Horse of the Year Curlin in last year's Breeders' Cup Classic.

Curlin had dominated on traditional dirt but struggled to a fourth-place finish on Santa Anita's synthetic track in the only out-of-the-money finish of his career. Curlin won 11 of 16 races and was retired as American thoroughbred racing's leading money earner with more than \$10.5 million.

"I have a very strong dislike for plastic surfaces and I don't believe she should be exposed to that," Jackson said during a conference call. "I'm not going to run her on plastic. We don't need to risk her that way." Rachel Alexandra has raced on synthetic surfaces before, cruising to a convincing win in an allowance race over Keeneland's Polytrack last October. That race came well before her rousing victory in the Kentucky Oaks, and before she was purchased by Jackson and his Stonestreet Farms. "I'm 110 percent with Mr. Jackson," said jockey Calvin Borel, who jumped off Kentucky Derby winner Mine That Bird to ride Rachel Alexandra in the Preakness. □

Sharapova exits early at Wimbledon; Federer wins

HOWARD FENDRICH

AP Tennis Writer

WIMBLEDON, England (AP)

— Give Maria Sharapova credit for honesty.

Before Wimbledon began, she acknowledged that a recent comeback from shoulder surgery made it too much to ask for her to contend seriously for a second title at the All England Club.

Sharapova was right: She didn't even make it out of the second round. Playing poorly at the start and finish Wednesday, the 2004 Wimbledon champion lost 6-2, 3-6, 6-4 to 45th-ranked Gisela Dulko of Argentina.

"Losses are tough—more here than at any other tournament," said Sharapova, who double-faulted seven times in the final set. "I would have liked to have a longer season before coming here."

With easy victories for past champions Serena Williams and Roger Federer, Sharapova's early exit counted as the most surprising development on Day 3 at the grass-court Grand Slam tournament — unless, that is, you count the weather.

The temperature was in the 70s, the sky was bright blue, the clouds were scarce and, for the third day in a row, not a single drop of rain fell. The only use the All England Club is making of Centre Court's fancy, new retractable roof is shifting it slightly to provide some shade for those seated in the Royal Box.

"It's good that it gets a little bit of a workout," club spokesman Johnny Perkins said.

Sharapova's opponent worried about being overwhelmed by the setting: Dulko's only previous visit to Centre Court was when she sat in the stands to watch a match. This time, Dulko was wielding a racket and trying to beat someone who not only has been ranked No. 1 and owns three major championships, but also won their two previous meetings by scores of 6-0, 6-1, then 6-1, 6-1.

Dulko, meanwhile, has only once been to the fourth round at a Grand Slam tournament. So who would have expected Sharapova to be the wobbly

one?

Dulko claimed nine of the first 11 games, changing speeds effectively while Sharapova's errors piled up.

"It took me a while to get going. It's a little too late to start picking yourself up when you're down a set and 3-love," said Sharapova, who had an operation on her right shoulder in October and was off the tour for nine-plus months.

That absence dropped her out of the top 100, but by going 10-3 before Wimbledon — including 6-0 in three-set matches — Sharapova climbed to 60th, and she was seeded 24th based on past success at the tournament. But she was tentative on some shots, just plain off-kilter on others, flubbing some sitters and simple volleys.

"I don't really know if that's because I haven't played," Sharapova said. "When I've had those situations before, those balls would be pieces of cake."

Still, Sharapova did win seven games in a row to take the second set and go ahead in the third.

"She's a fighter," Dulko noted.

The velocity on Sharapova's serves dropped as they played past two hours, and she kept double-faulting, ceding momentum. Dulko, though, was nervous as she sat for the



Gisela Dulko of Argentina, right, shakes hands with Maria Sharapova of Russia, after winning their women's singles, second round match on the Centre Court at Wimbledon, Wednesday, June 24, 2009.

changeover before serving at 5-4 in the third.

"My legs were shaking," she said. "I told myself, 'Calm down.'"

With Sharapova's stroke-accompanying shrieks rising in octave and volume, she kept saving match points in that game, four in all. When Dulko shanked a forehand, it created a break point — and she was hoping for more mistakes by Sharapova.

"I was thinking, 'Please, hit it out. Please, hit it out,'" Dulko said.

Talk about mind over matter. Sharapova put a backhand

into the net, pushed a forehand wide and then sailed a forehand long, ending her second consecutive second-round loss at Wimbledon.

How long might it be until she regains the form that made her champion here at age 17 and later carried her to the 2006 U.S. Open and 2008 Australian Open titles?

"I don't really know. I mean, I'd honestly tell you if I knew," Sharapova said. "It's just one of those questions where I don't really have an answer." One player who might benefit from Sharapova's loss: Williams, the 2002-03

Wimbledon champion, who could have faced the Russian in the quarterfinals. Williams moved into the third round by beating Jarmila Groth 6-2, 6-1.

Eighth-seeded Victoria Azarenka had even less trouble Wednesday, defeating Ioana Raluca Olaru 6-0, 6-0, but No. 16 Zheng Jie — a semifinalist last year — lost to Daniela Hantuchova 6-3, 7-5. Another 2008 semifinalist, No. 18 Rainer Schuettler, was the only seeded man to lose Wednesday, eliminated by Dudi Sela of Israel 7-6 (3), 6-3, 6-2. □

Associated Press



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MLB Roundup

Kuroda steers Dodgers over White Sox

CHICAGO (AP) — Los Angeles pitcher Hiroki Kuroda dominated for 8 2-3 innings, steering the majors-leading Dodgers to a 5-2 win over the Chicago White Sox in interleague play on Tuesday. Kuroda allowed only a second-inning solo homer and a single until there were two outs in the ninth. Kuroda gave up two more hits before being replaced on the mound and closer Jonathan Broxton got the final out.

Kuroda struck out nine of the light-hitting White Sox, who are last in the American League with 119 runs in home games this season.

The Dodgers went ahead in the first and James Loney's two-run homer made it 3-0 in the second.

In New York, Joel Pineiro pitched a career-best two-hitter for St. Louis, shutting out New York.

Pineiro only got one strikeout but an astounding 22 outs on the ground. It was his fifth career shutout and 11th complete game, and ended a run of five losing starts.

Albert Pujols smacked a two-run single and Pineiro matched the Mets at the plate by himself. He doubled and scored in the third inning, then singled in the fourth.

In St. Petersburg, Florida, Philadelphia routed Tampa Bay in the first meeting

CONFEDERATIONS CUP Continued from Page B10

Suddenly and unexpectedly, Spain had a real struggle on its hands.

Against the 14th-ranked Americans, Spain came into the game showing little to nothing of the Red Fury that gave it the team its nickname. All the fire and determination came from a U.S. team that was never intimidated by Spain's record winning streak.

Donovan demonstrated the eagerness with two fouls in the opening five minutes, earning him a quick yellow card.

Adding flair beyond stamina, Charlie Davies executed a near perfect bicycle kick in the seventh minute which only just went wide.



Los Angeles Dodgers third baseman Casey Blake, background left, and second baseman Orlando Hudson, right, congratulate starting pitcher Hiroki Kuroda after Kuroda pitched 8 2-3 innings giving up only two runs off four hits in an interleague baseball game against the Chicago White Sox on Tuesday, June 23, 2009, in Chicago. The Dodgers defeated the White Sox 5-2.

Associated Press

between the teams since last year's World Series.

Chase Utley homered and drove in four runs for the Phillies. He had a two-run double in the first inning and added his 16th homer in the fourth, a two-run shot that made it 10-0.

Tampa Bay scored on Jason Bartlett's fourth-inning single that extended the shortstop's career-best hitting streak to

17 games — one shy of the franchise record.

Philadelphia pitcher Jamie Moyer, 46, earned career win No. 251, moving him into a tie with Hall of Famer Bob Gibson for 43rd on the all-time list.

In other Major League games it was, Boston 11, Washington 3; Detroit 5, Chicago Cubs 4; Cleveland 5, Pittsburgh 4; Toronto 7,

Cincinnati 5; Philadelphia 10, Tampa Bay 1; Florida 7, Baltimore 6, 12 innings; Atlanta 4, N.Y. Yankees 0; St. Louis 3, N.Y. Mets 0; Kansas City 2, Houston 1; Minnesota 7, Milwaukee 3; L.A. Dodgers 5, Chicago White Sox 2; Arizona 8, Texas 2; L.A. Angels 4, Colorado 3; San Francisco 4, Oakland 1; and San Diego 9, Seattle 7.□

Often though, Spain's famed midfield did show its own brilliance. But unlike so often, something always went wrong at the last station, either because of an imprecise pass, a crushing tackle or a block from Oguchi Onyewu or his fellow defenders.

"We lacked a little of our usual touch," Del Bosque said. "We played a very difficult rival who took us head on."

Both David Villa and Fernando Torres, the tournament's top scorers, came close to adding a fourth goal to their tally in the first half. But when the United States defense finally failed, as it did it in the 44th minute on another fluent move, Howard could be counted on to make a tough stop on a shot from

Torres.

The United States goalkeeper pulled off a great one-handed save from an angled shot from Villa in the 48th minute to keep his team ahead.

The attacks, though, just kept coming and it seemed a matter of time before the underdogs would finally crumble. The Americans never did.

In the 54th, Spain wanted a penalty when Xavi Hernandez was run into the ground by Donovan as he was chasing a pass from Cesc Fabregas. Howard then deflected a fierce shot from Sergio Ramos onto the post and out in the 65th minute, and the Americans kept blocking everything which came its way.□



Spain's goalkeeper Iker Casillas reacts during their Confederations Cup semifinal soccer match against the US, at Free State Stadium in Bloemfontein, South Africa, Wednesday, June 24, 2009. The US won 2-0 and advanced to the final.

Associated Press



Minnesota Lynx's Candice Wiggins (11) shoots against New York Liberty's Cathrine Kraayeveld (33) during the third quarter of a WNBA basketball game in Minneapolis on Tuesday, June 23, 2009. Lynx won 69-57.

Associated Press

WNBA Roundup Sky beats Dream 99-98 in overtime

ATLANTA (AP) — Jia Perkins hit a jump shot with 44.4 seconds left in overtime for the Chicago Sky to beat the Atlanta Dream 99-98 in the WNBA on Tuesday.

Perkins finished with 22 points for the Sky, who avoided opening the season with four straight road losses. Candice Dupree had 20 points and 10 rebounds, while Dominique Canty added 13 points.

Atlanta took an 85-83 advantage — its first lead of the contest — on Jennifer Lacy's layup with 1:09 remaining. But two free throws by Perkins sent the game into overtime.

Rookie Angel McCoughtry led the Dream with 26 points and eight assists, and Sancho Lyttle added 18.

At San Antonio, Belinda Snell came off the bench to score 21 points and had four steals as San Antonio scored the game's final eight points for a win over Phoenix.

Becky Hammon, who returned to San Antonio after playing for the Russian national team on Saturday in the European Championships final in Latvia, added 19 points after shooting 1 for 7 in the first half.

In other WNBA action it was, Chicago 99, Atlanta 98, OT; San Antonio 91, Phoenix 87; and Minnesota 69, New York 57.□



In this Dec. 27, 2008, photo, Detroit Red Wings defenseman Chris Chelios warms up before the Red Wings faced the Colorado Avalanche in an NHL hockey game in Denver. Chelios won't be in a Red Wings uniform next season.

Associated Press

Chelios says he wants to play a 26th NHL season

DETROIT (AP) — He won't be a Detroit Red Wing, but Chris Chelios still wants to play a 26th NHL season.

The 47-year-old defenseman said on Wednesday he has no hard feelings about Detroit's decision not to sign him for next season. In fact, he says his 10 years as a Red Wing couldn't have turned out better.

"Absolutely no regrets," he said. "I had the best 10 years in Detroit."

He was limited to 28 games during the 2008-09 regular season because of a leg he broke during an exhibition game. He played in six games during the playoffs, in which Detroit lost to the Pittsburgh Penguins in the Stanley Cup finals.

Chelios has won three Stanley Cups and three Norris Trophies as the league's top defenseman. He said he had one last chat with Red Wings' owner Mike Ilitch on Tuesday, and was ready to move elsewhere. □

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Noord	587-0009
Sta. Cruz	585-4710
Savaneta	584-7000
San Nicolaas	584-5000

Emergency Numbers



Emergencia	911
Polis	100
Brandweer	115
Brandweer II	582-1108
Tipline di Polis	11141
Hospital	587-4300

Oranjestad

Ambulance	582-1234
Warda Polis	582-4000
BGD Oranjestad	582-8877

San Nicolas

Ambulance	584-5050
Warda Polis	584-5000
BGD San Nicolas	584-1606
Valero Security	584-1720

Services

Elmar	583-3000
Informacion	118
Kadaster	582-1311
Serlimar	584-6456
Setar	582-5151
Taxi	582-2116
Web	585-4600
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Aruba (FADA) Tel: 583-2999

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ALWAYS ... ON TOP OF THE NEWS

Venezuela y EEUU restablecen embajadores expulsados

MARACAY, Venezuela (Reuters) - Venezuela y Estados Unidos anunciaron el miércoles que acordaron restablecer a sus respectivos embajadores, como parte de los esfuerzos de ambos gobiernos por mejorar sus deterioradas relaciones bilaterales.

El presidente Hugo Chávez ordenó en septiembre la expulsión del embajador de Washington en Caracas en solidaridad con una medida similar de su aliado boliviano Evo Morales, lo que fue respondido de la misma forma por parte de la Casa Blanca.

El canciller venezolano, Nicolás Maduro, confirmó que los representantes diplomáticos que habían sido expulsados hace nueve meses volverán a sus cargos.

“El secretario de Estado adjunto para América Latina, Thomas Shannon, nos manifestó (...) todo el deseo del Gobierno del presidente estadounidense, Barack Obama, para avanzar en un proceso de comunicación

más fluida y mejorar las relaciones”, explicó Maduro, citado por un comunicado de la cancillería.

“Nosotros tenemos una posición muy clara en torno a ese tema y estamos en la disposición de avanzar”, agregó.

Venezuela y Estados Unidos acordaron en abril buscar la normalización de sus vínculos, luego de un ameno encuentro entre Chávez y su homólogo estadounidense, Barack Obama, en una cumbre de las Américas en Trinidad y Tobago.

Previamente, una fuente de la cancillería dijo a Reuters que el embajador venezolano ante Washington, Bernardo Alvarez, retomará su cargo el viernes.

Por su parte, un funcionario estadounidense informó que la Casa Blanca decidió enviar nuevamente a su embajador Patrick Duddy a Caracas, sin precisar más detalles.

Originalmente, Chávez había

propuesto a su representante ante la Organización de Estados Americanos (OEA), Roy Chaderton, para reemplazar a Alvarez. Pero finalmente los gobiernos decidieron restituir a los mismos funcionarios destacados antes del impasse. Bolivia decidió la expulsión del representante diplomático estadounidense al acusarlo de instigar a manifestaciones violentas en ese país. Las relaciones entre Caracas y Washington se han tensado durante el mandato de Chávez, un fiero crítico de la política exterior estadounidense que, sin embargo, ha mostrado optimismo en una mejora de los lazos por la llegada al poder de Obama.

Pese a las disputas diplomáticas, Venezuela se mantiene como un importante proveedor de crudo y productos para el mercado estadounidense, que a su vez es el mayor socio comercial de la nación caribeña. □



Foto de archivo del embajador estadounidense en Venezuela, Patrick Duddy, durante una conferencia de prensa en Caracas, 20 mayo 2008. REUTERS/Susana Gonzalez (VENEZUELA)

Grupo del ALBA incorpora tres nuevos miembros

MARACAY, Venezuela (AP) - El presidente venezolano Hugo Chávez anunció el miércoles la incorporación formal de Ecuador, San Vicente y las Granadinas, y Antigua y Barbuda, a la Alternativa Bolivariana para los Pueblos de América (ALBA), con lo que se elevan a nueve los miembros del grupo.

Chávez dijo en la instalación de la VI cumbre extraordinaria del ALBA en la ciudad central de Maracay, que la adhesión de los tres nuevos estados es un hecho de importancia “histórica” que le da una “férrea configuración” al grupo que está conformado en la actualidad por Venezuela, Cuba, Bolivia, Dominica, Honduras y Nicaragua.

El mandatario afirmó que los miembros del ALBA se reúnen en Venezuela para “convocar a nuestro pueblo a la gran batalla por la independencia de nuestra América, ya que sólo la unión nos hará libre”.

El presidente ecuatoriano Rafael Correa dijo al formalizar la solicitud de adhesión de Ecuador al ALBA que la integración a este bloque

regional no es una “negativa a los procesos integracionistas existentes”.

Sostuvo que el gobierno ecuatoriano continuará apoyando a la Comunidad Andina de Naciones (CAN), el Mercosur, la Unión de Naciones Sudamericanas (Unasur), y una “naciente organización de estados latinoamericanos y del Caribe”.

Correa afirmó que el ALBA es “proyecto político, un proyecto de solidaridad, de integración, ser dueño de nuestro propio destino, un proyecto socialista”.

“El ALBA es mucho más que un proyecto comercial, es integración energética, integración política, integración social”, agregó.

Durante un desfile militar que se realizó temprano en el estado centro costero de Carabobo por el Día del Ejército y la conmemoración de los 188 años de la Batalla de Carabobo que selló la independencia de Venezuela, Chávez dijo que la “revolución socialista es pacífica, pero no está desarmada”. □

Indígenas de Ecuador celebran fiesta del sol

COTACACHI, Ecuador (AP) - Con los puños en alto y bailando al ritmo de sus propios silbidos y zapateos, indígenas de varias comunidades del norte del país bajaron el miércoles desde sus poblados en las montañas para concentrarse en la plaza central de esta ciudad y rendir tributo al sol.

Por unas horas, esos indígenas andinos se convierten en virtuales guerreros-danzantes que con látigos en sus manos participan en la denominada “toma de la plaza”, una de las múltiples actividades de Inti Raymi, palabras quichuas que significan “fiesta del sol”.

“Es una fiesta milenaria en agradecimiento al ‘dios sol’ por las cosechas que nos ha dado durante todo el año”, señaló a la AP, Juan Ulquiango, de la Unión de Organizaciones Campesinas e Indígenas de Cotacachi, que coordina la “toma de la plaza”. La ciudad se encuentra 65 kilómetros al norte de Quito. □



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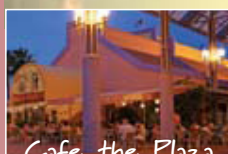
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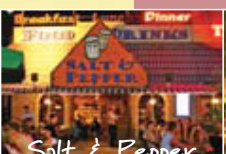
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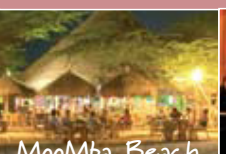
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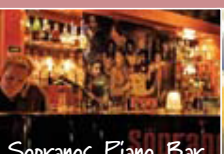
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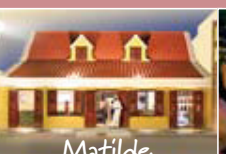
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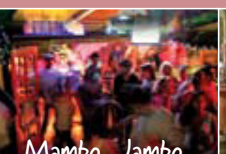
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